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SELECTIONS

FROM

LINCOLN'S SPEECHES

AND

LETTERS

ARRANGED FOR

LEARNERS OF MUNSON PHONOGRAPHY

BY

BERTHA CROCKER

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This reading book is a transcription of "Selections from Lincoln's Speeches and Letters," edited by Bliss Perry and published by Doubleday, Page & Company, whose courtesy in permitting us to use the matter we gratefully acknowledge. It has been chosen because of the simplicity of the language and the intrinsic interest and inspiration it contains for American youth. As a text-book it is planned to follow HOW TO MAKE A LIVING as a reader. The shorthand script is in accordance with the principles of PRACTICAL PHONOGRAPHY, the phrasing being the simple, natural, and free phrasing of the practical stenographer, with no thought of producing problems for the pupil to solve.

448301

"He knew to bide his time,
And can his fame abide,
Still patient in his simple faith sublime,
Till the wise years decide.
Great captains, with their guns and drums,
Disturb our judgment for the hour,
But at last silence comes;
These all are gone, and, standing like a tower,
Our children shall behold his fame,
The kindly-earnest, brave, foreseeing man,
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,
New birth of our new soil, the first American."

LOWELL, *Commemoration Ode.*

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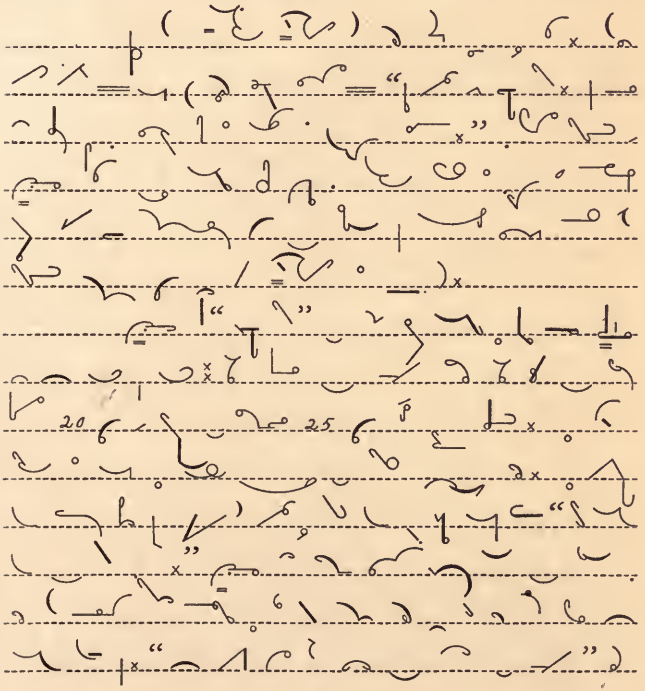
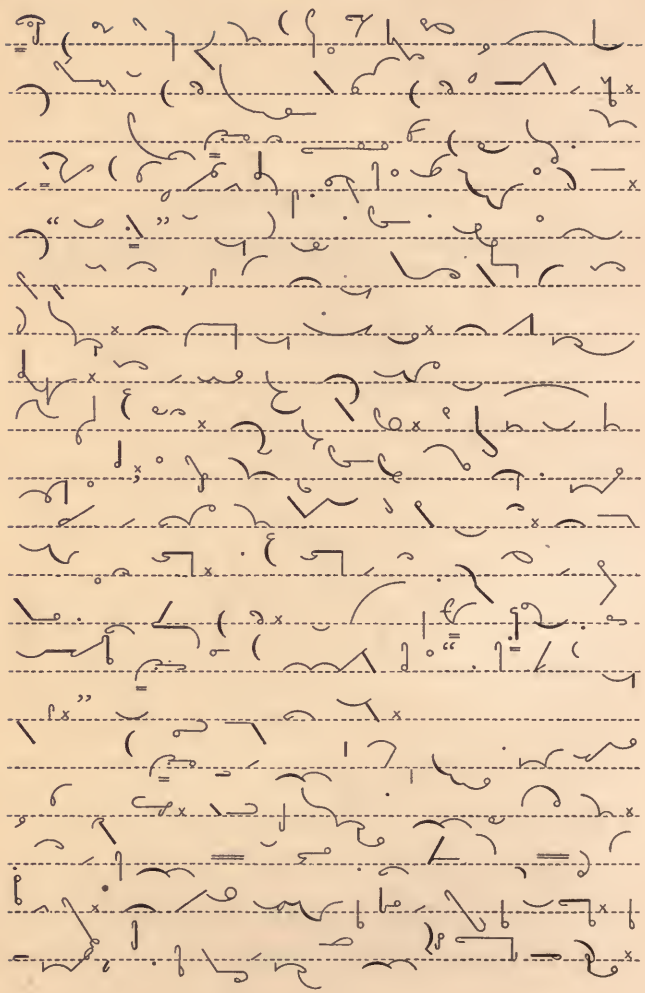
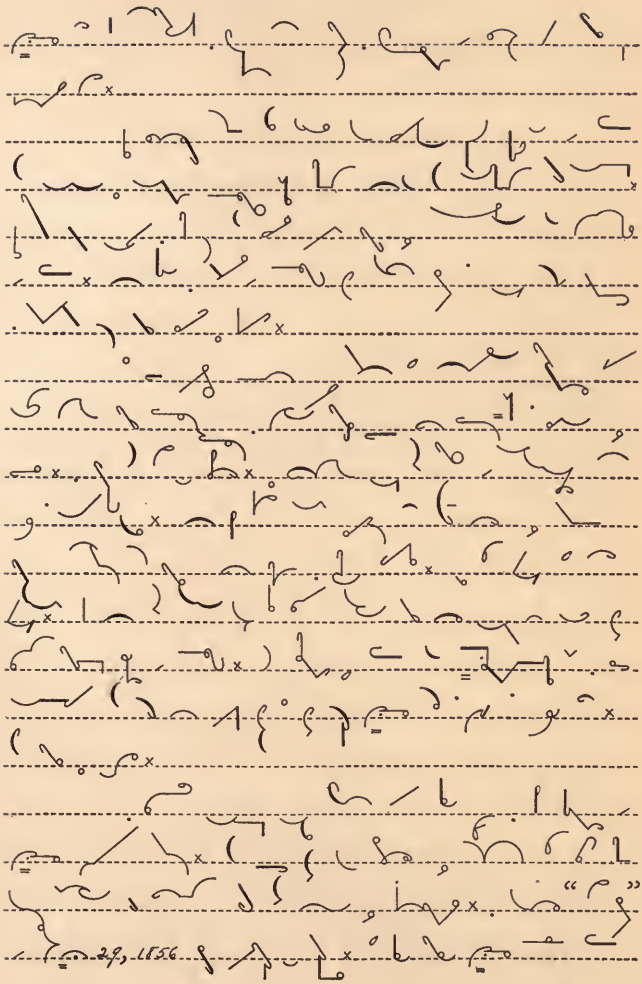
B. O. BAKER
LAWYER
DALLAS, TEXAS

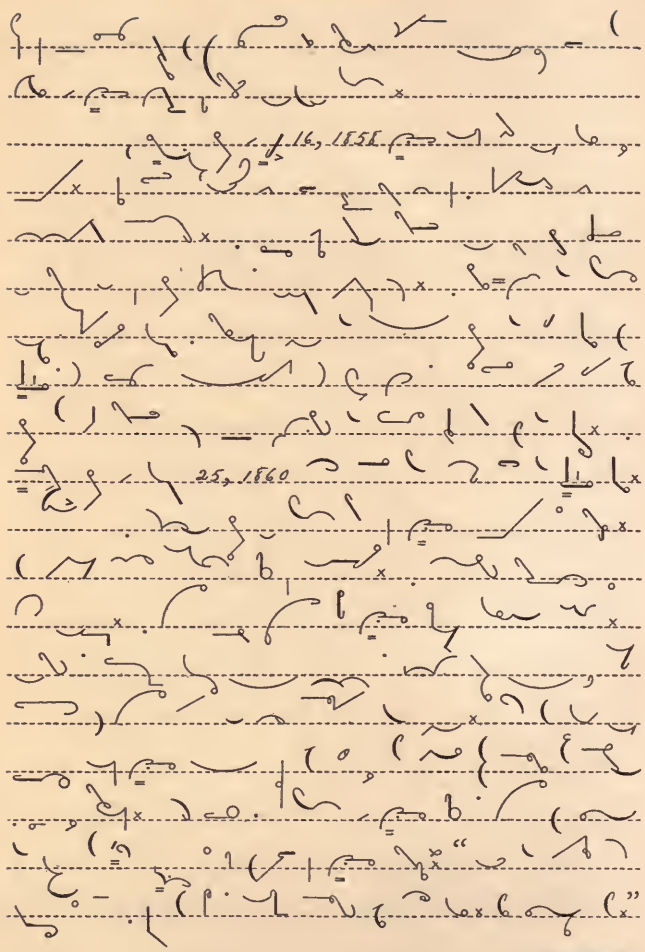
EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

"It is not too much to say of him [Lincoln] that he is among the greatest masters of prose ever produced by the English race."—*The (London) Spectator.*









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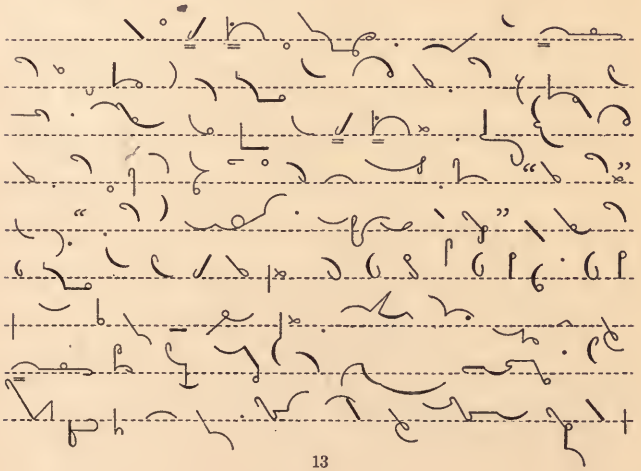
SELECTIONS FROM

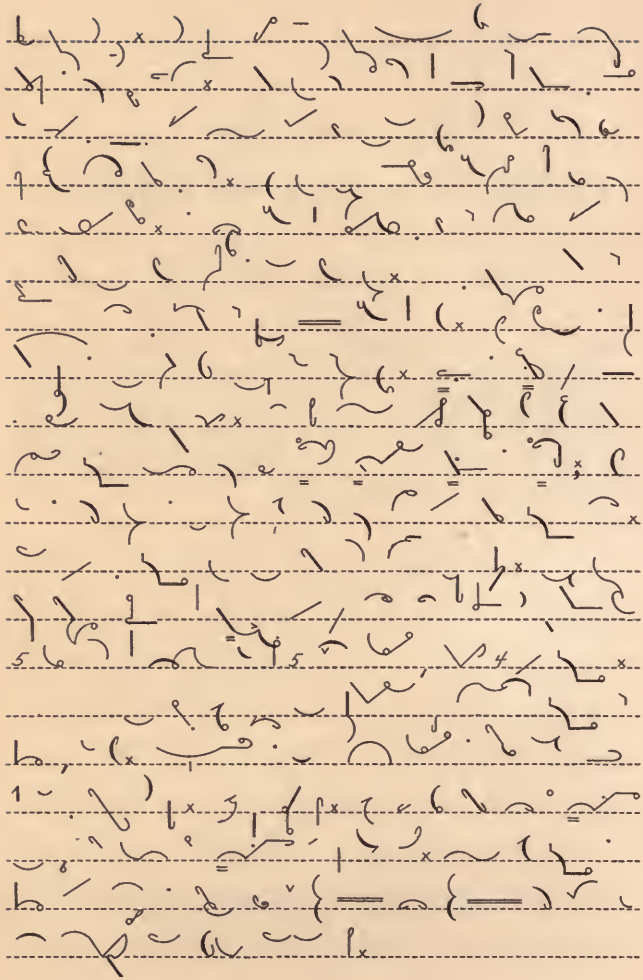
LINCOLN'S SPEECHES AND LETTERS

THE WHIGS AND THE MEXICAN WAR

July 27, 1848

[An extract from a speech delivered in the House of Representatives while Lincoln was a Congressman from Illinois. The speech was in support of General Taylor, the Whig candidate for the Presidency. Lincoln had opposed President Polk's declaration of war against Mexico, had introduced resolutions of inquiry on that subject, and made a strong speech on January 12, 1848, explaining his own attitude. The speech of July 27 was full of wit, at times more caustic than refined. The extract here presented sums up clearly Lincoln's views as to the Mexican War, and is a good example of his best parliamentary style at this stage of his career.]

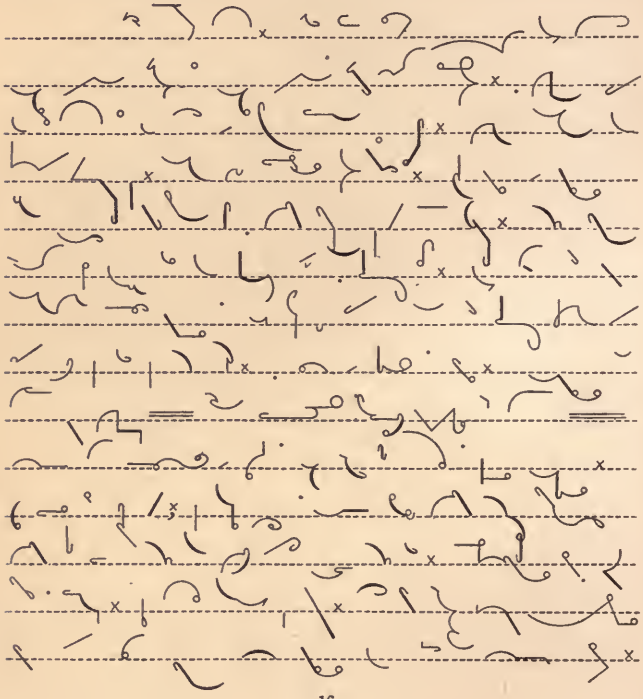


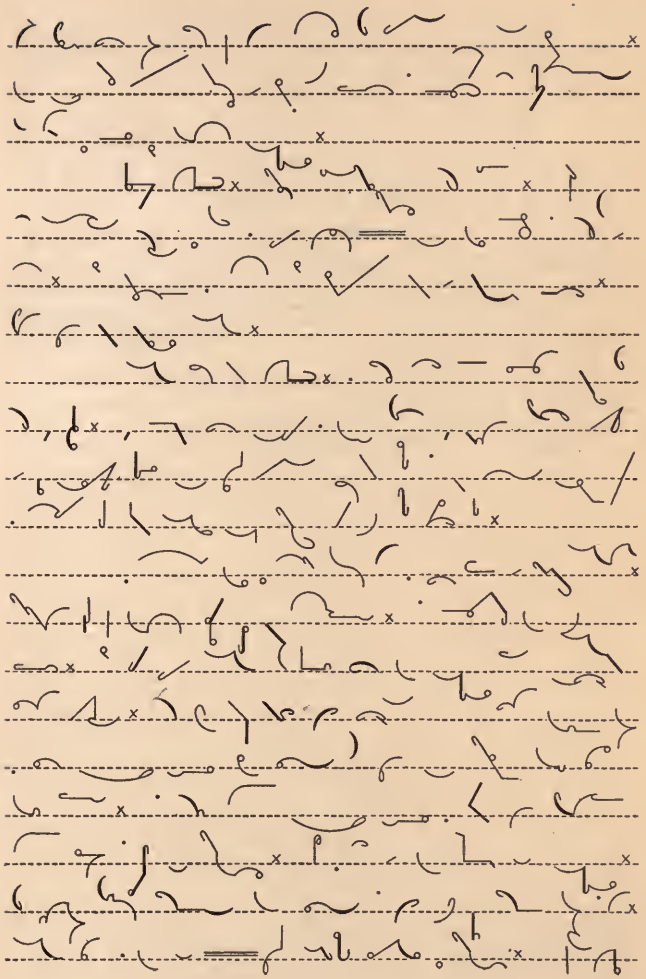


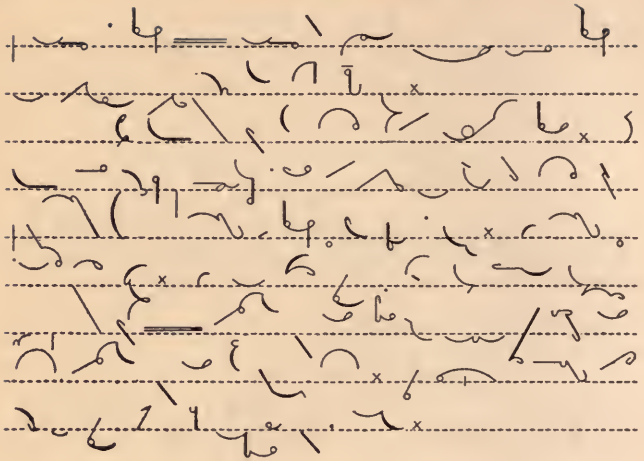
NOTES FOR A LAW LECTURE

July 1, 1850

[These notes show Lincoln's power of straightforward statement and his good sense. They are of additional interest as indicating his attitude toward professional success.]



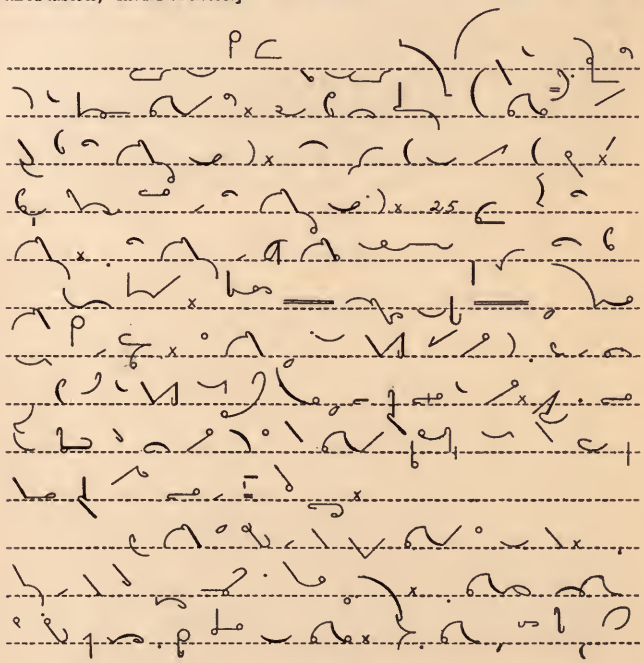


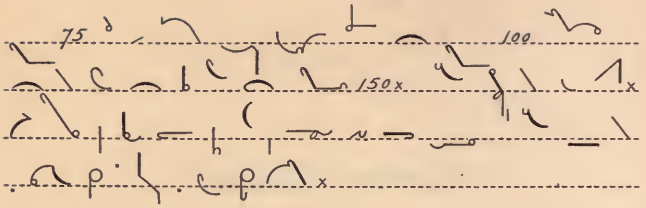


FRAGMENT ON SLAVERY

July 1, 1854

[From early manhood Lincoln's sympathies had been strongly enlisted on behalf of the slaves. The contrast between slave labor and free labor has never been stated more tersely and vividly than here. The sentence, "Twenty-five years ago I was a hired laborer," should be noted.]

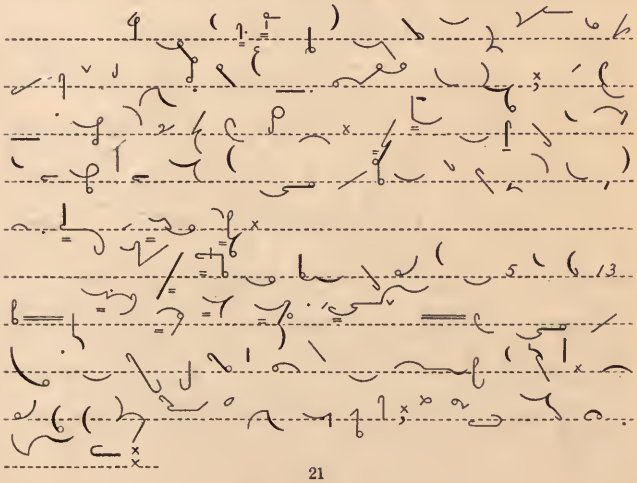


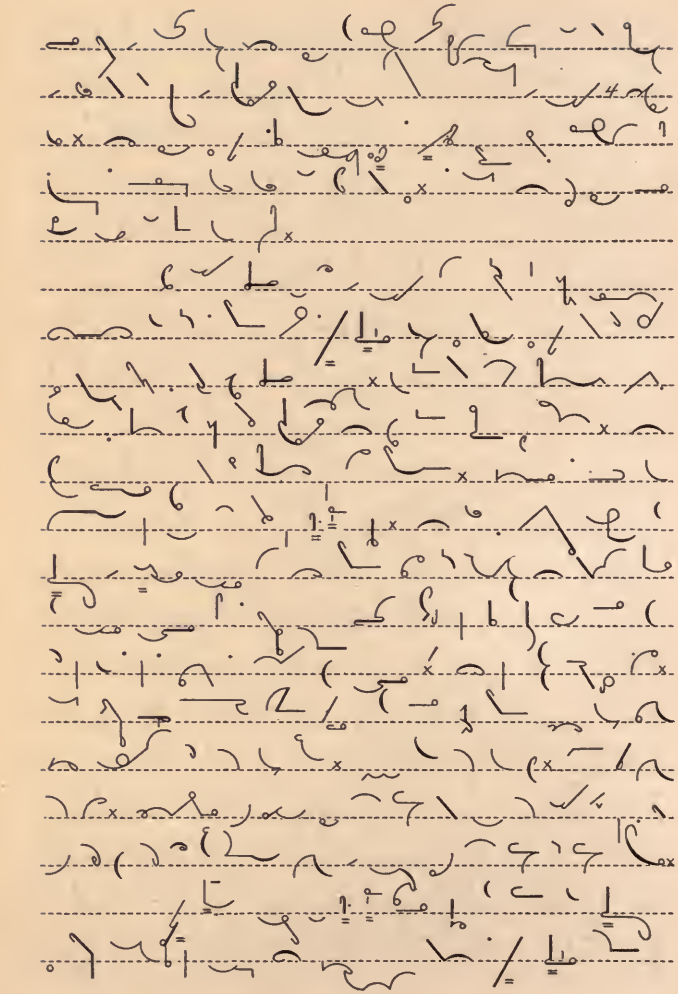


THE DRED SCOTT DECISION AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

June 26, 1857

[This is an extract from a speech delivered at Springfield, Ill. It was intended as a reply to a speech of Stephen A. Douglas two weeks earlier upon the subject of slavery in the Territories. Douglas was the author of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, passed in 1854, which gave the Territories the right to decide whether they would have slavery. The Dred Scott decision was published by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1857, and was to the effect that a slave or the descendant of a slave could not be a citizen of the United States or have any standing in the Federal courts. Lincoln contrasts the spirit of this decision with that of the Declaration of Independence, with a skill and force that will be apparent to every reader. He repeated the substance of the argument over and over again in his joint debates with Douglas in the following year.]





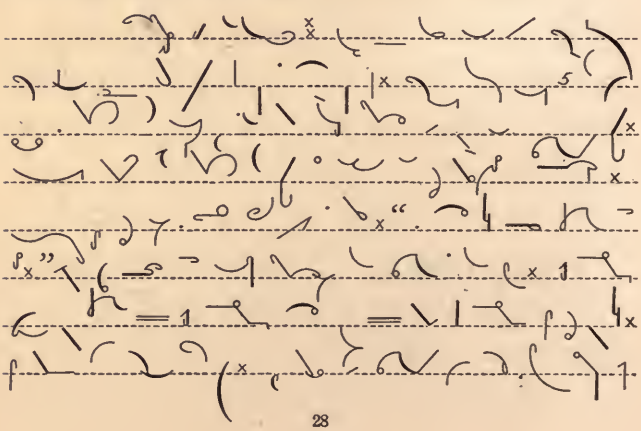
SPRINGFIELD SPEECH

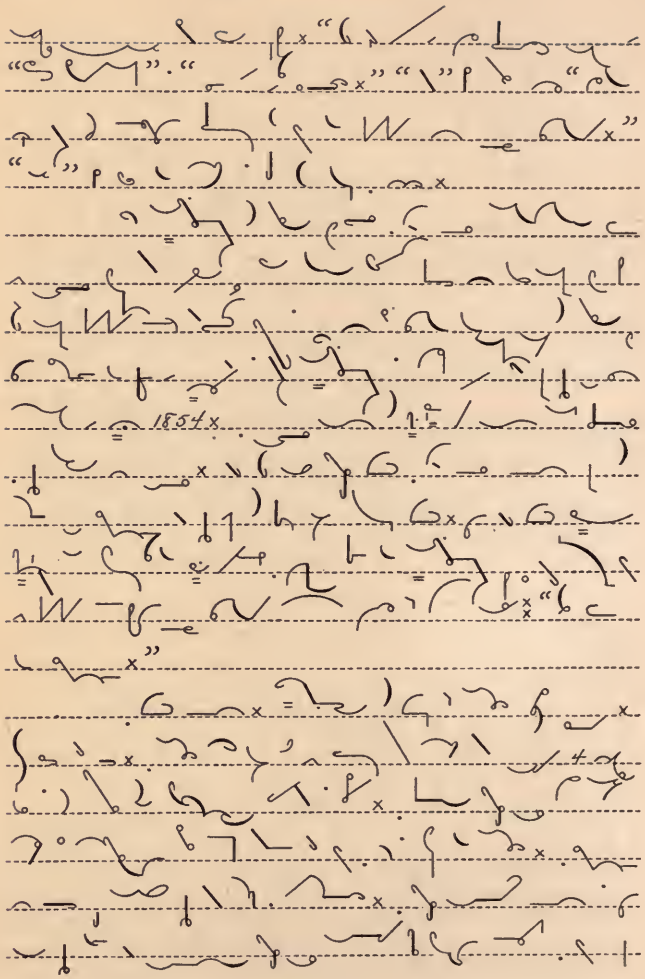
June 16, 1858

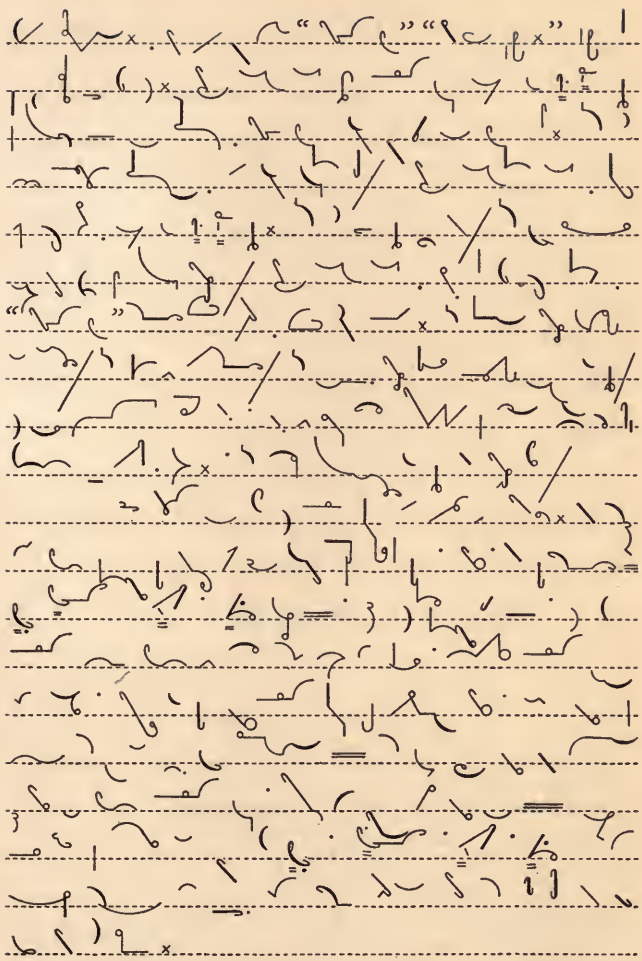
Speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois, at the close of the Republican State Convention by which Mr. Lincoln had been named as their candidate for United States Senator.

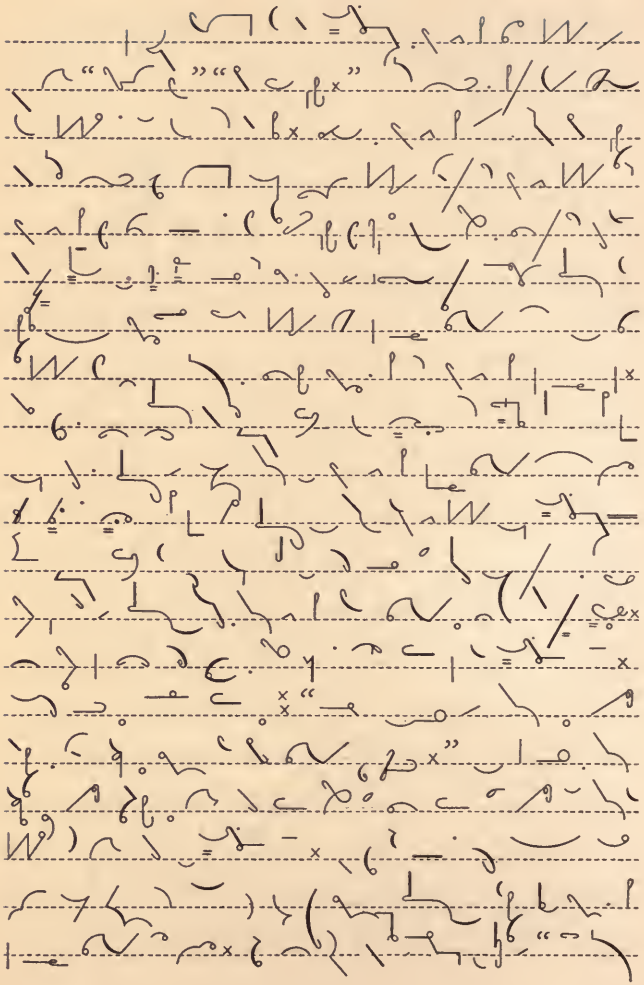
[The opening paragraph of this speech was prepared with the most extreme care, and probably did more to influence Lincoln's political future than anything he ever wrote. His best friends thought it impolitic to utter the sentiment that the "government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

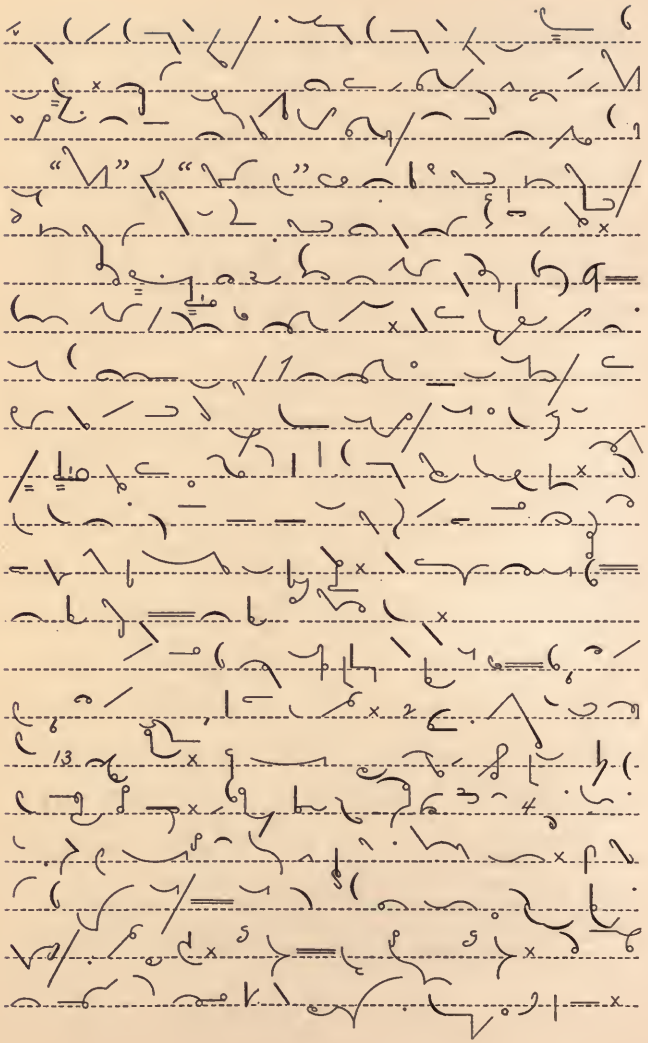
For the immediate purpose of that campaign they were right, for this paragraph, in the opinion of many good judges, was the cause of Lincoln's defeat by Douglas. But the constant discussion of those sentences in the great series of joint debates with Douglas during the summer and autumn brought Lincoln's views before the whole country, and was an important element in his selection as the Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1860. The entire speech, read in the light of subsequent history, affords remarkable evidence not only of Lincoln's shrewdness as a party leader, but of his political wisdom in the highest sense.]







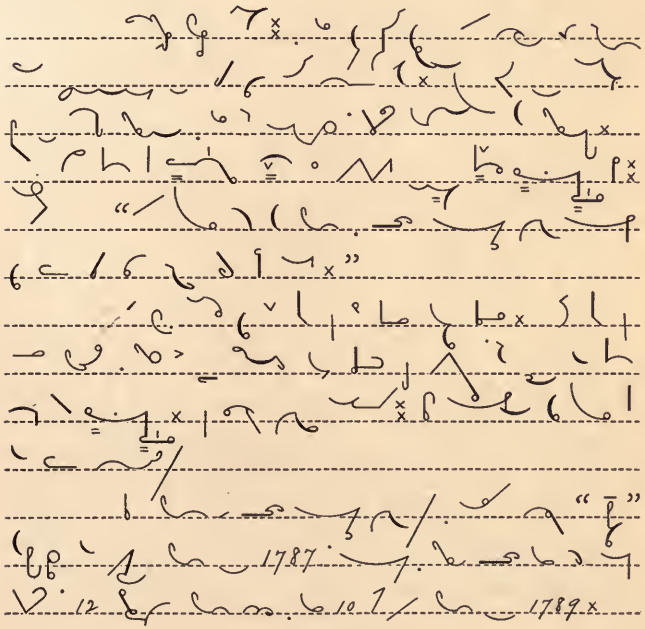




ADDRESS AT COOPER INSTITUTE

February 27, 1860

[This was Lincoln's first appearance before an Eastern audience. The speech cost him a great deal of labor, and was most heartily received.—See *Morse's "Abraham Lincoln,"* I, 153-156.]



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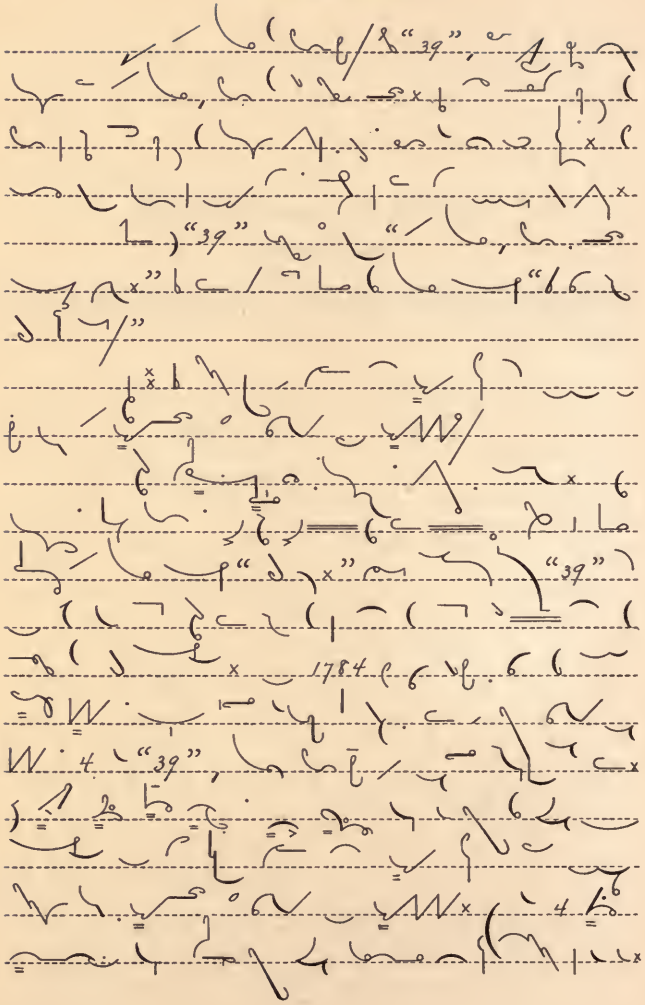
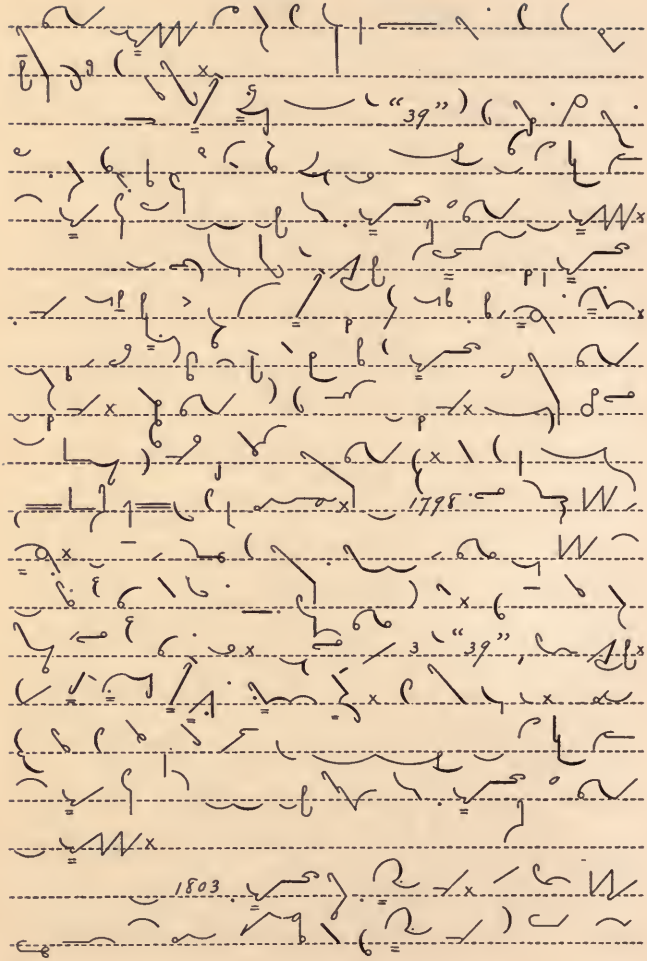
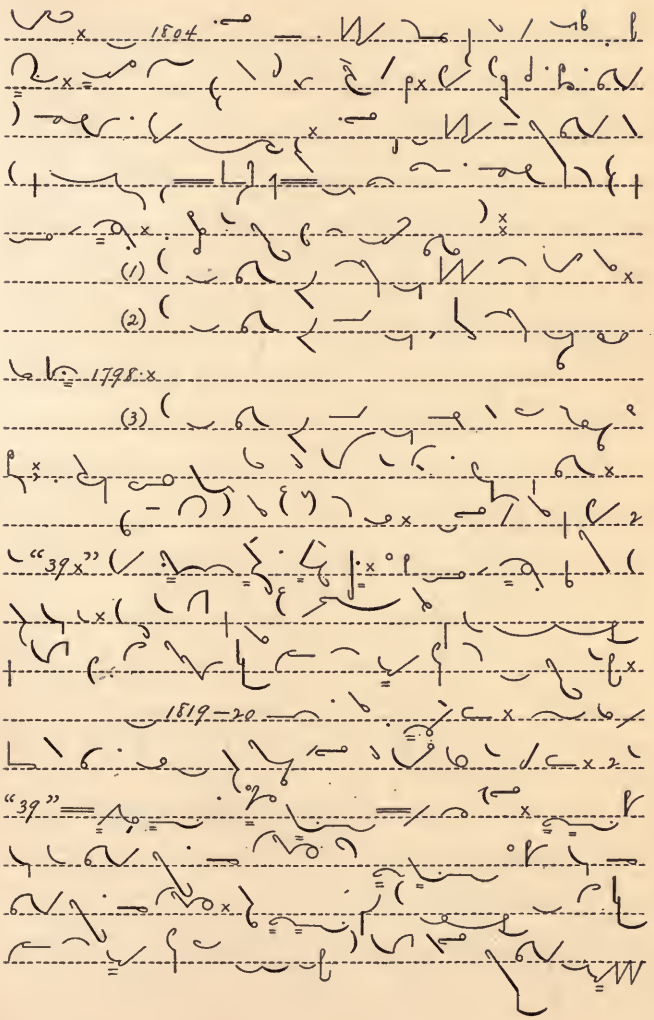
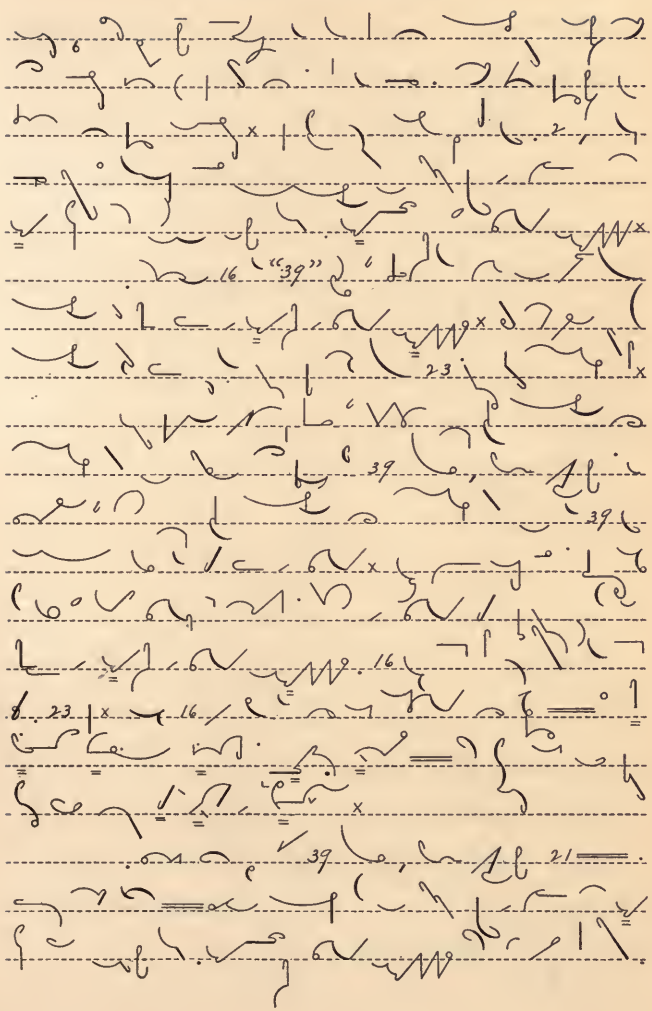
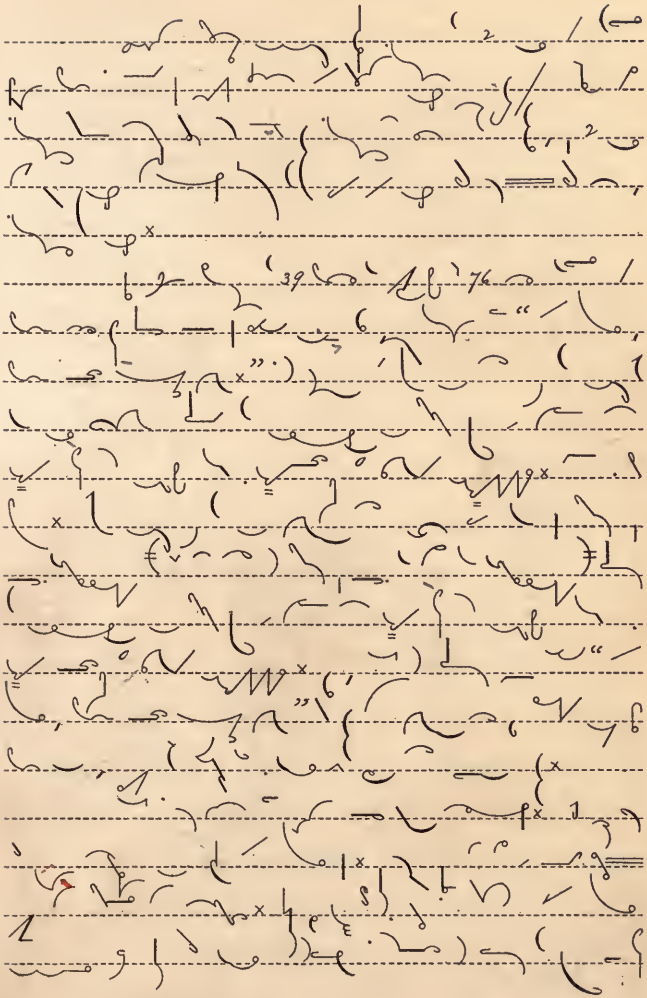
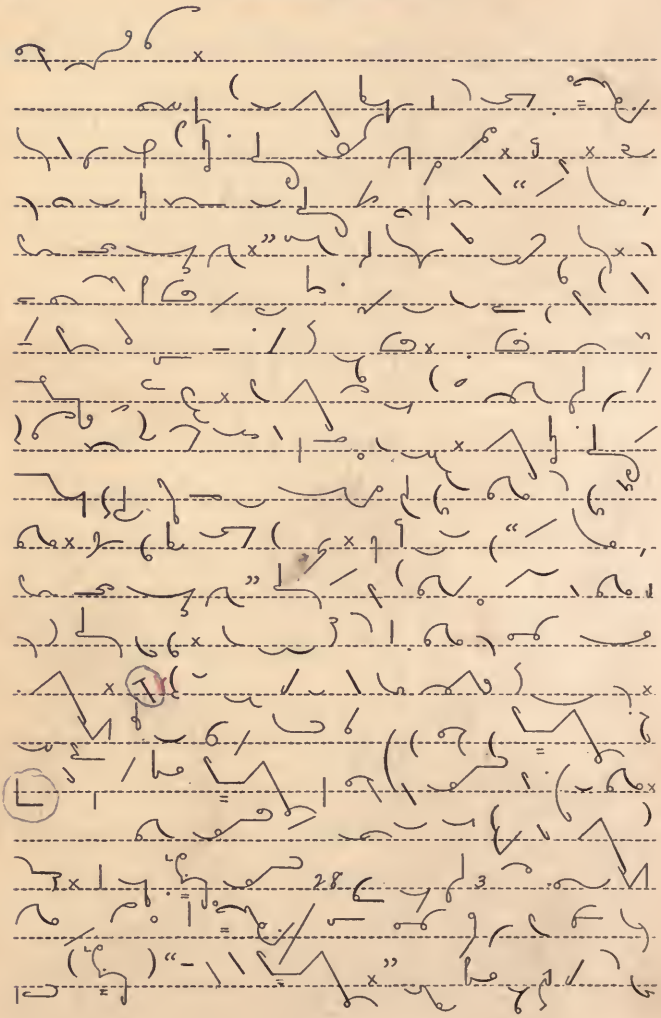








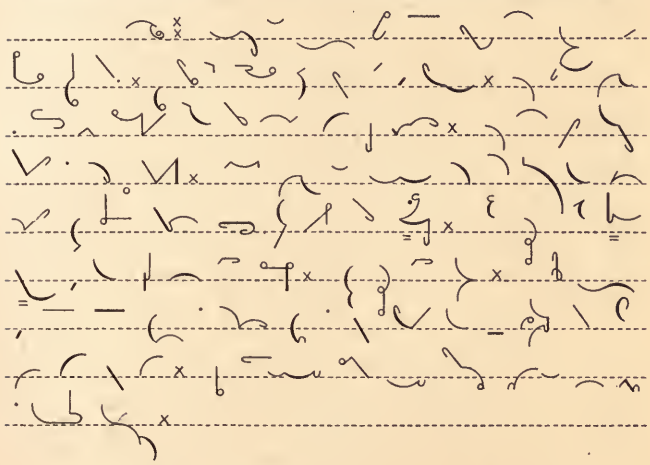




FAREWELL AT SPRINGFIELD

February 11, 1861

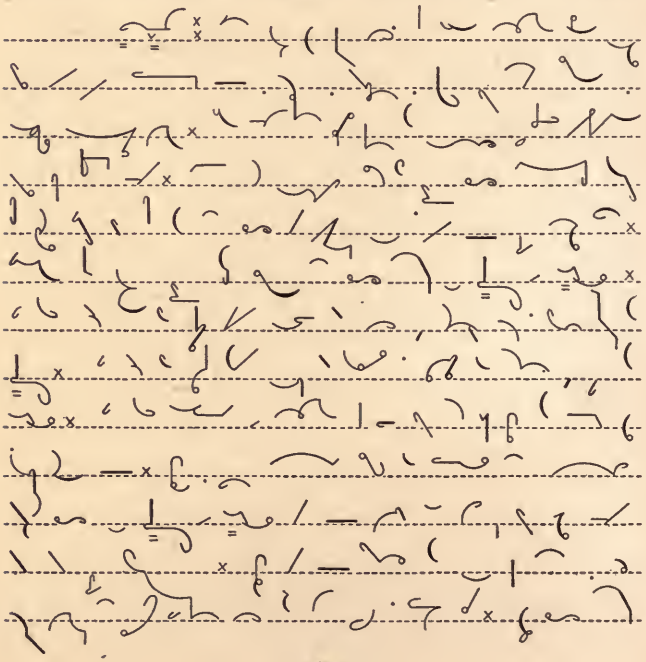
[These words, to which subsequent events have given an added note of solemnity, were spoken to a vast audience of Lincoln's fellow-citizens upon the rainy February day when he left Springfield for Washington to assume the duties of the Presidency.]

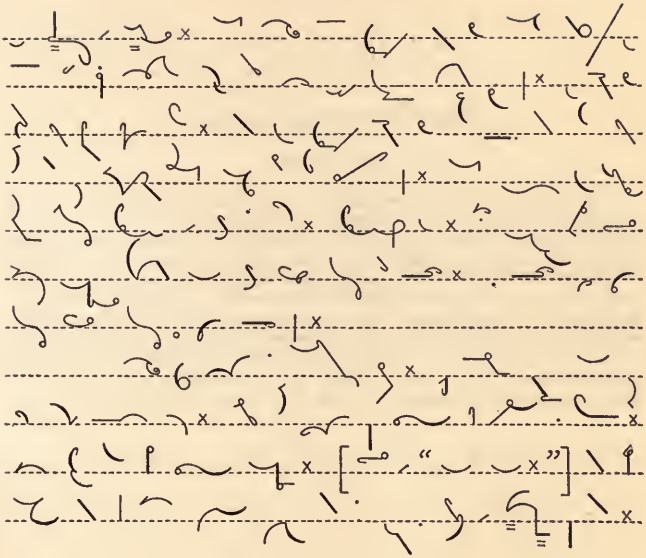


SPEECH IN INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA

February 22, 1861

[During the journey to Washington Lincoln made many brief addresses. The following, spoken in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, upon Washington's Birthday, is one of the most felicitous, and the time and place of its delivery give it additional interest.]

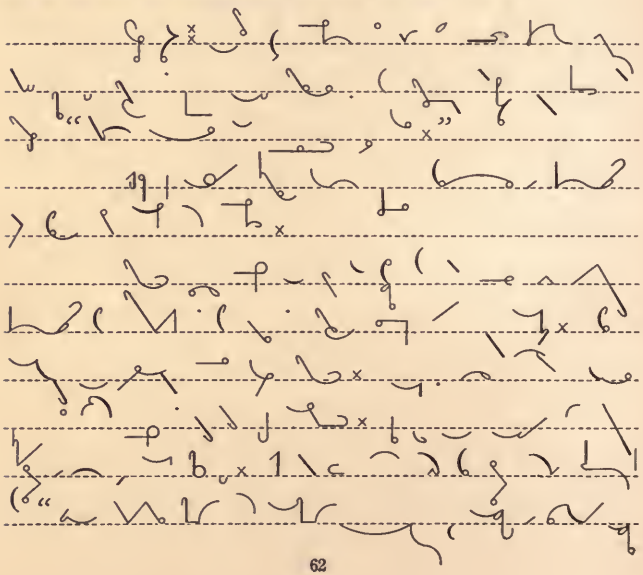


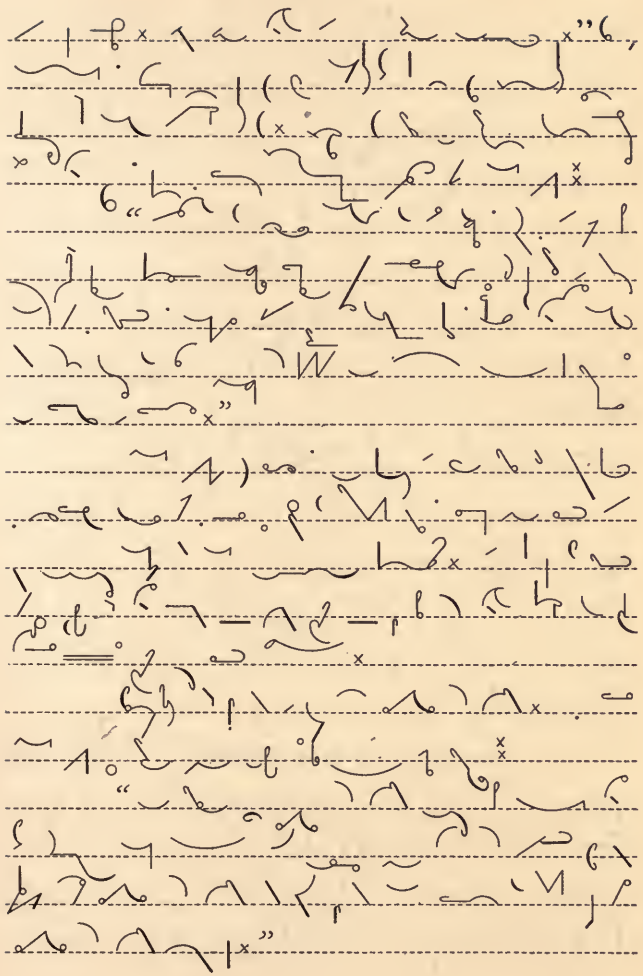


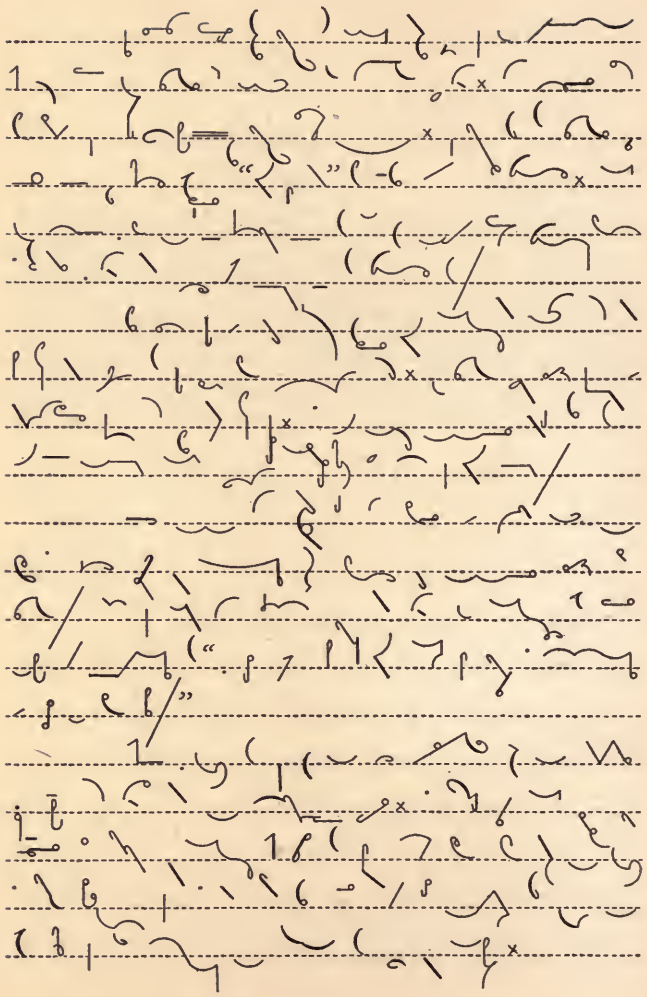
FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS

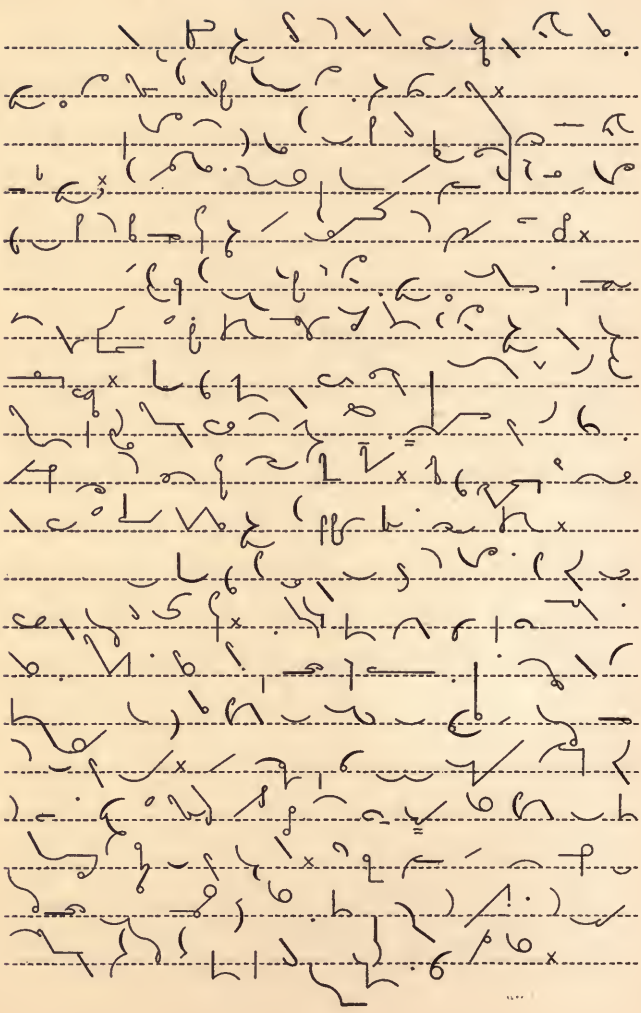
March 4, 1861

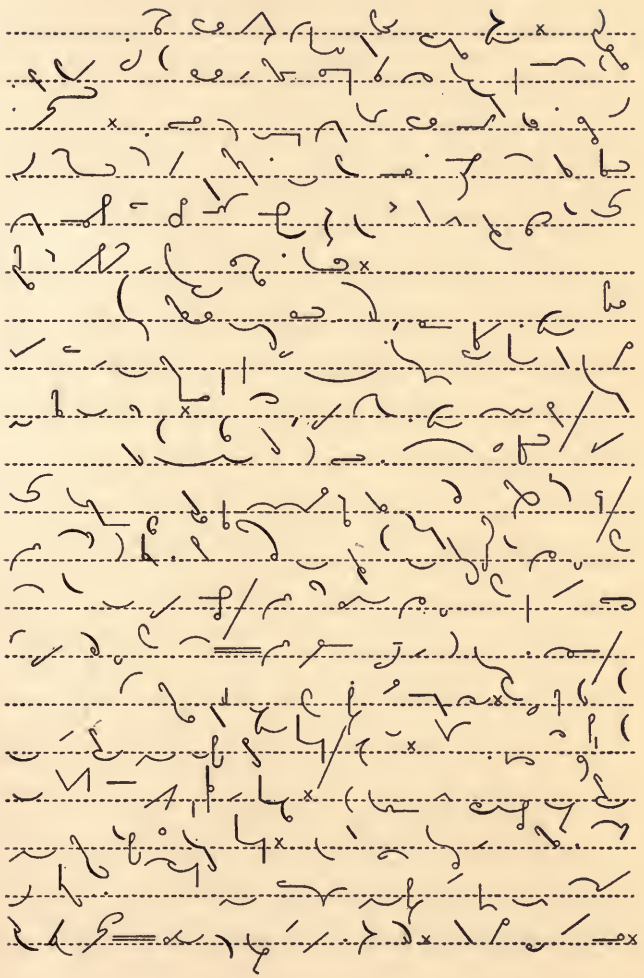
["Mr. Lincoln was simply introduced by Senator Baker, of Oregon, and delivered his inaugural address. His voice had great carrying capacity, and the vast crowd heard with ease a speech of which every sentence was fraught with an importance and scrutinized with an anxiety far beyond that of any other speech ever delivered in the United States. . . . The inaugural address was simple, earnest, and direct, unincumbered by that rhetorical ornamentation which the American people have always admired as the highest form of eloquence. Those Northerners who had expected magniloquent periods and exaggerated outbursts of patriotism were disappointed, and as they listened in vain for the scream of the eagle, many grumbled at the absence of what they conceived to be *force*. Yet the general feeling was of satisfaction, which grew as the address was more thoroughly studied."—*Morse's "Abraham Lincoln."*]

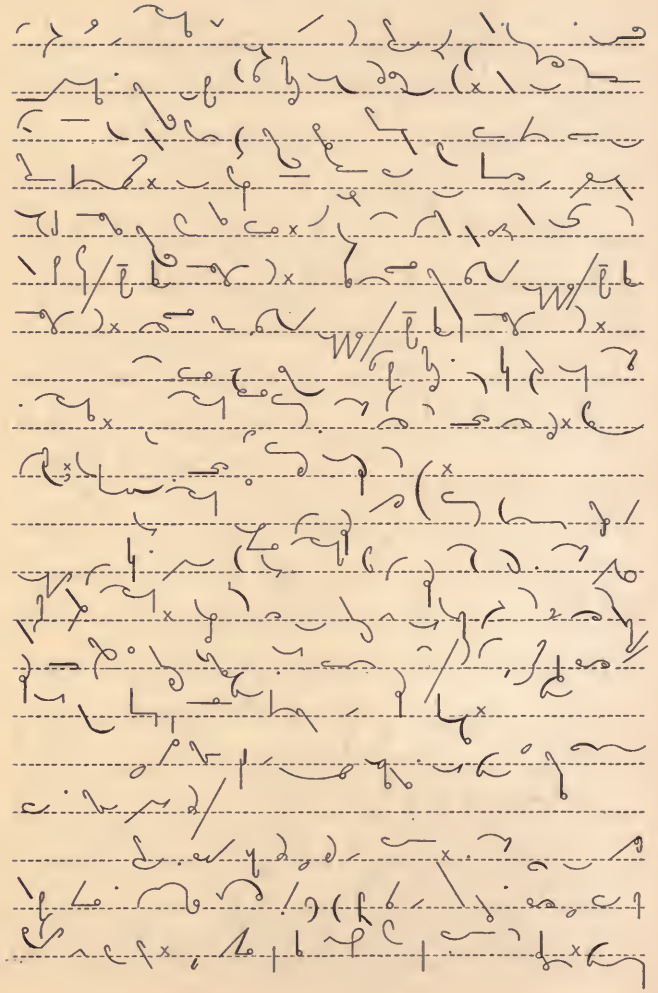


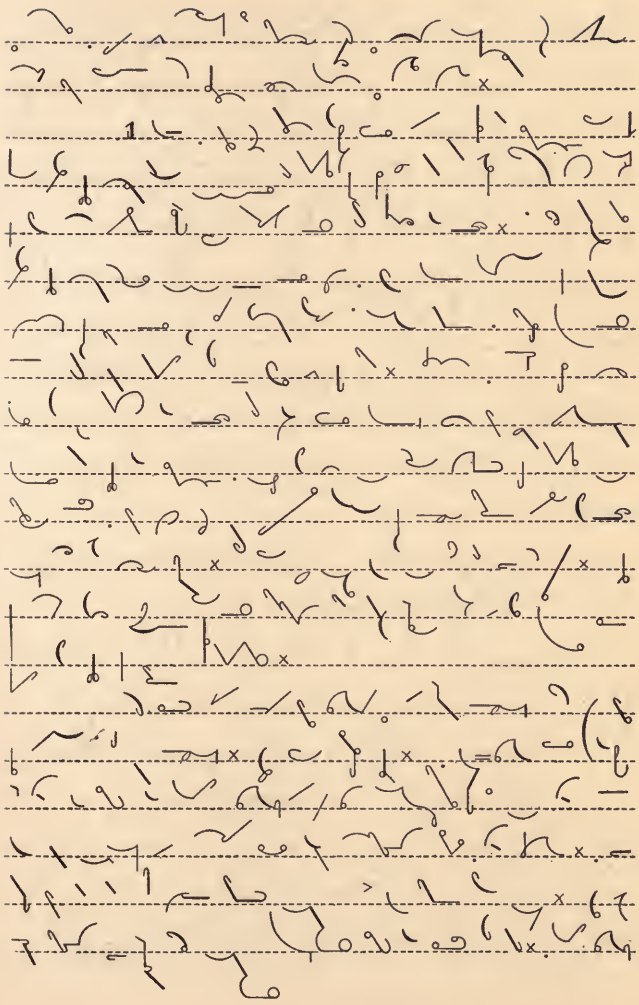


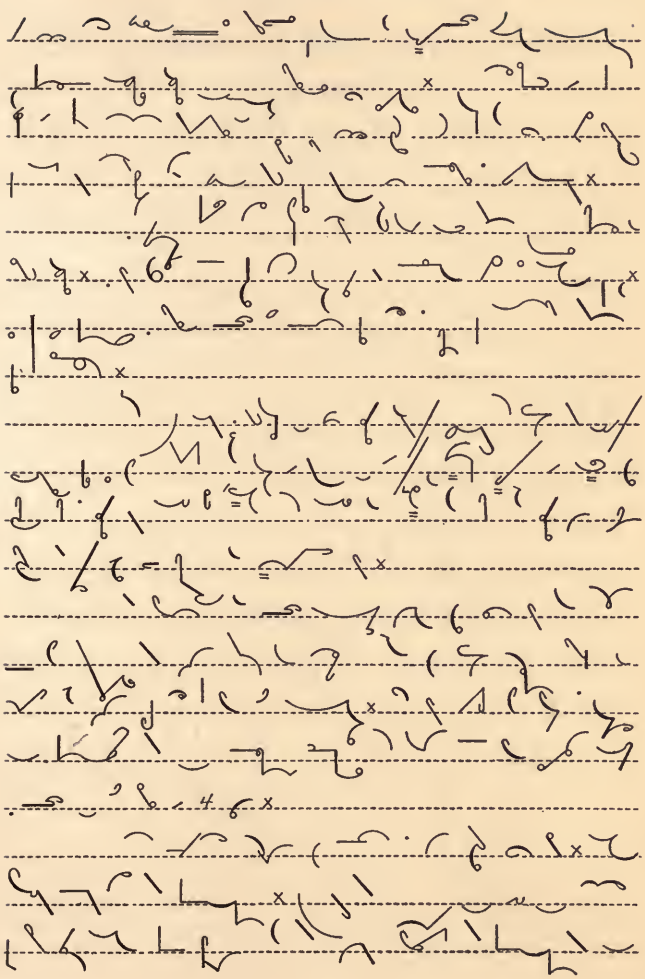










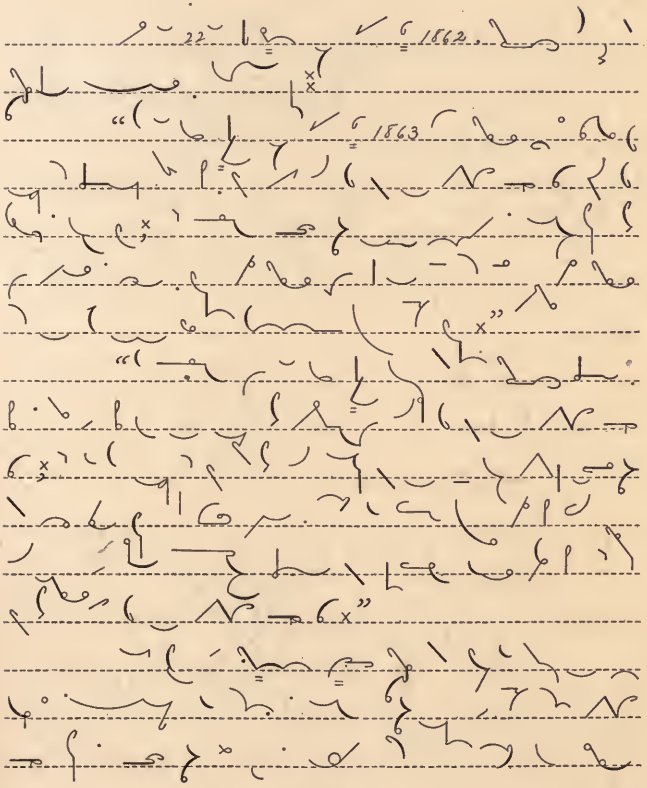


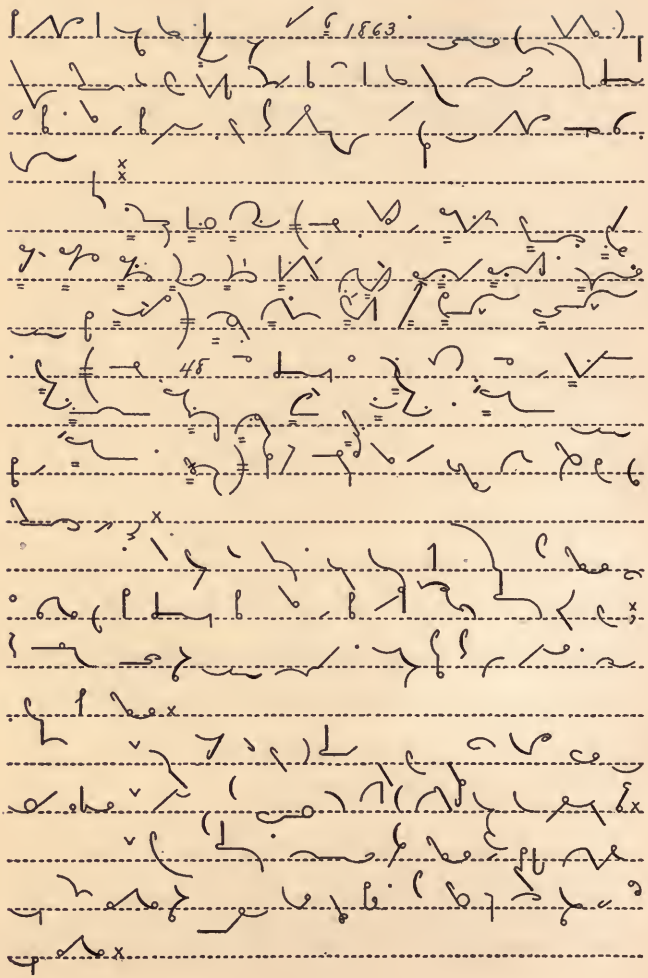
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

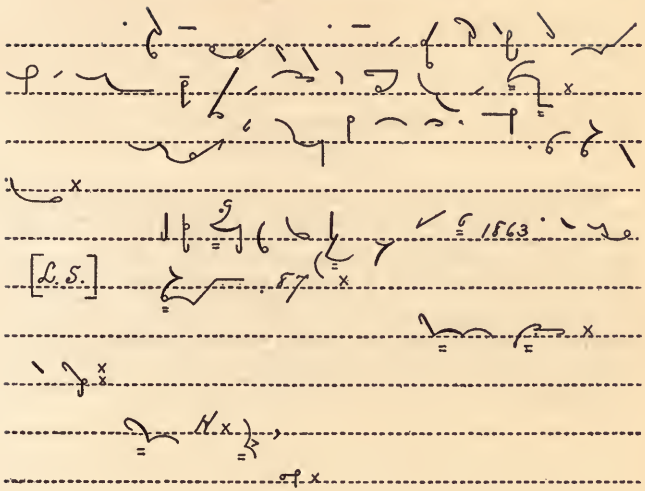
January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America:

A Proclamation



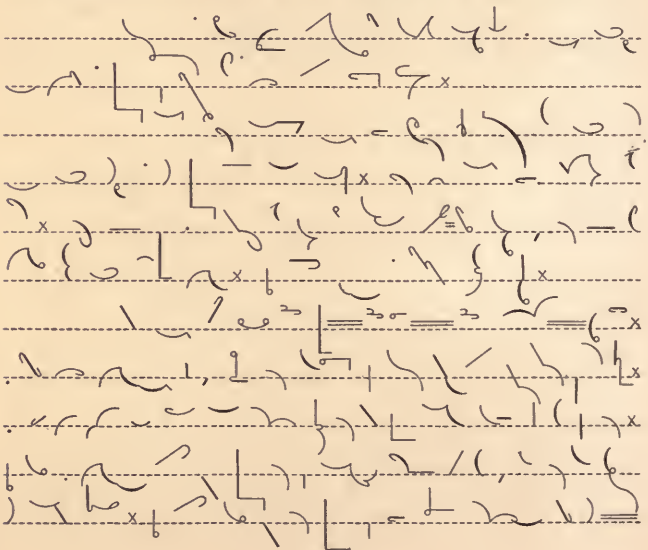




GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

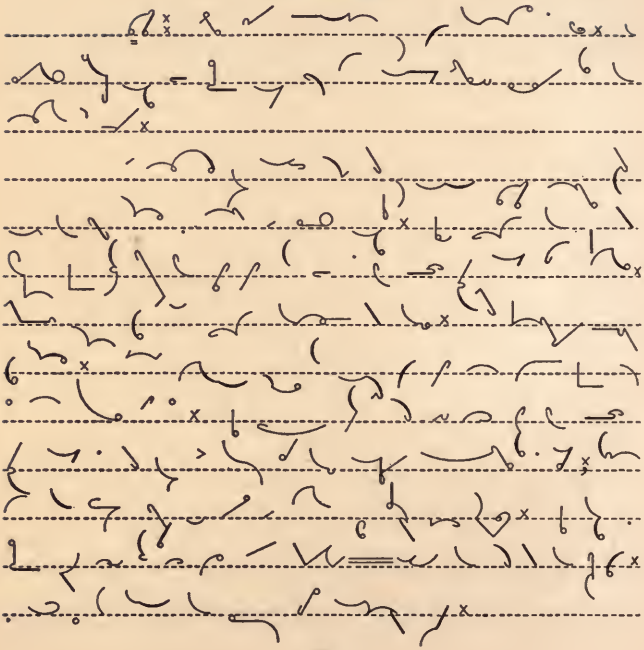
November 19, 1863

[The national military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., was dedicated with solemn ceremonies on November 19, 1863, as a memorial of the three days' battle fought in the previous July, which proved to be the turning-point of the Civil War. The formal oration of the day was pronounced by Edward Everett, but the President was asked to add a word. His biographer, Mr. J. G. Nicolay, has given an interesting account of the preparation of the address. (*Century Magazine*, Vol. XLVII) It was delivered without any effort at oratorical effect; but its perfection of feeling and of phrase was instantly and universally recognized. To have composed the Gettysburg address is proof enough, were there no other, of Lincoln's place among the masters of English speech. His letter to Edward Everett acknowledging the latter's praise, and complimenting Everett in turn, is included in this volume of selections.]



SPEECH TO 166TH OHIO REGIMENT

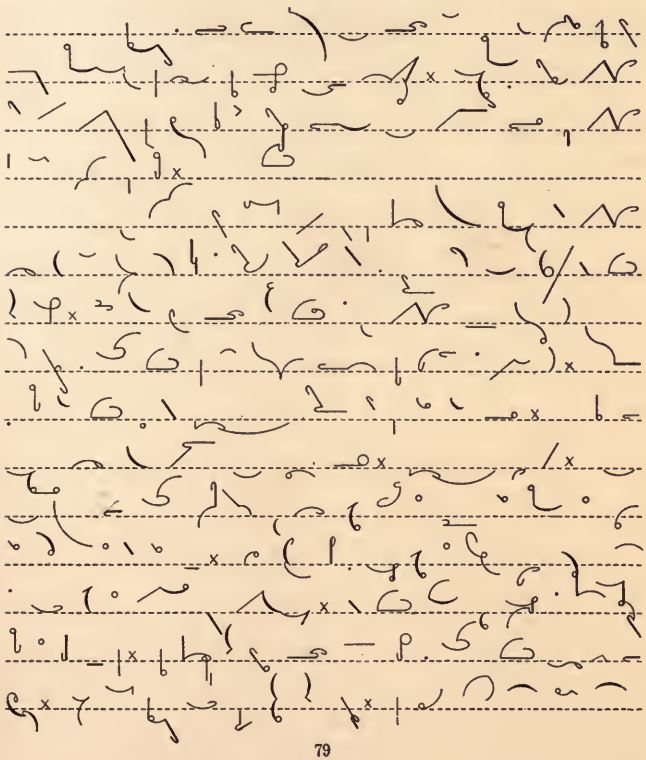
August 22, 1864

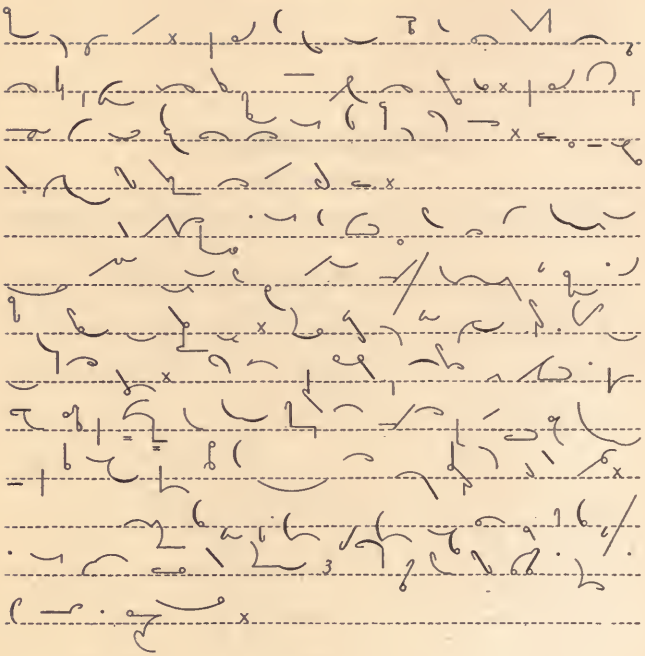


RESPONSE TO SERENADE

November 10, 1864

[This little speech was called forth by the news of Lincoln's re-election as President.]

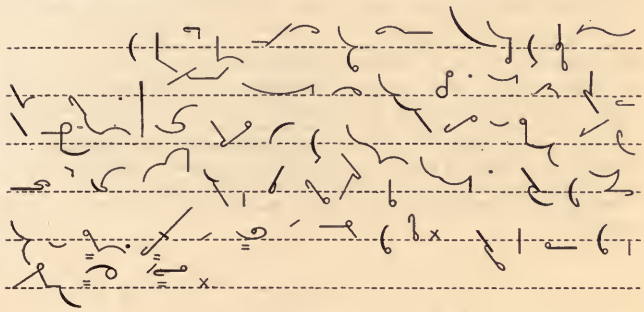




REPLY TO COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COUNT

February 9, 1865

[Lincoln had been renominated for the Presidency by the Republican Convention which met in Baltimore on June 7, 1864, and was elected on November 8 by a plurality of nearly half a million in the popular vote. In the Electoral College he had 212 votes to 21 for McClellan.]

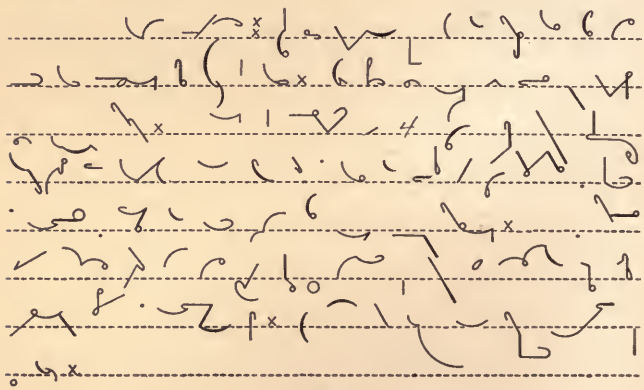


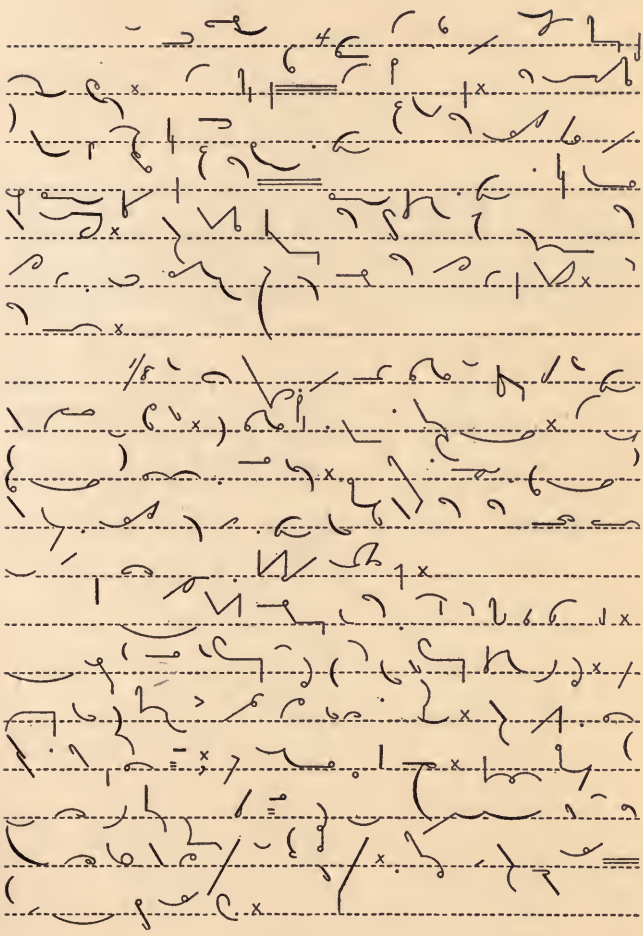
SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

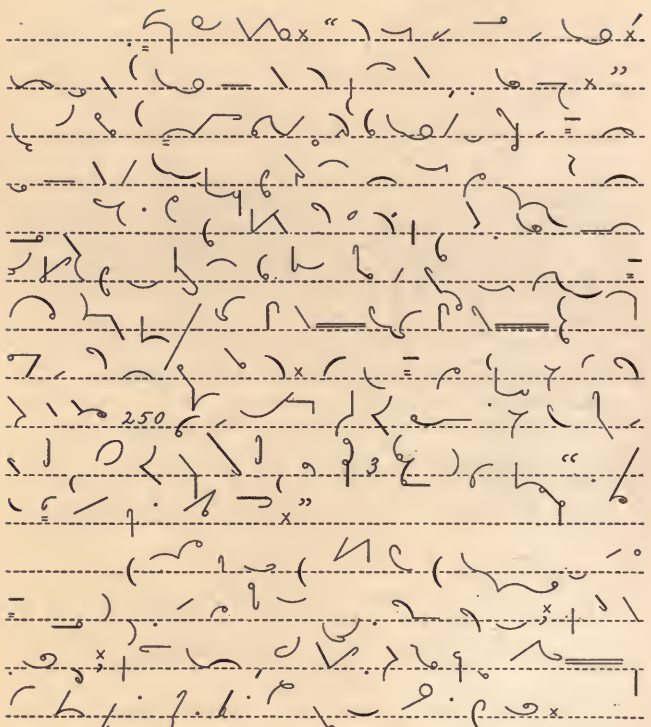
March 4, 1865

["The 'Second Inaugural'—a written composition, though read to the citizens from the steps of the Capitol—well illustrates our words. Mr. Lincoln had to tell his countrymen that, after a four years' struggle, the war was practically ended. The four years' agony, the passion of love which he felt for his country, his joy in her salvation, his sense of tenderness for those who fell, of pity mixed with sternness for the men who had deluged the land with blood—all the thoughts these feelings inspired were behind Lincoln pressing for expression. A writer of less power would have been overwhelmed. Lincoln remained master of the emotional and intellectual situation. In three or four hundred words that burn with the heat of their compression, he tells the history of the war and reads its lesson. No nobler thoughts were ever conceived. No man ever found words more adequate to his desire. Here is the whole tale of the nation's shame and misery, of her heroic struggles to free herself therefrom, and of her victory. Had Lincoln written a hundred times as much more, he would not have said more fully what he desired to say. Every thought receives its complete expression, and there is no word employed which does not directly and manifestly contribute to the development of the central thought."—*The* (*London*) *Spectator*, May 2, 1891.

Compare also Lincoln's letter to Thurlow Weed at the close of this volume of selections.]



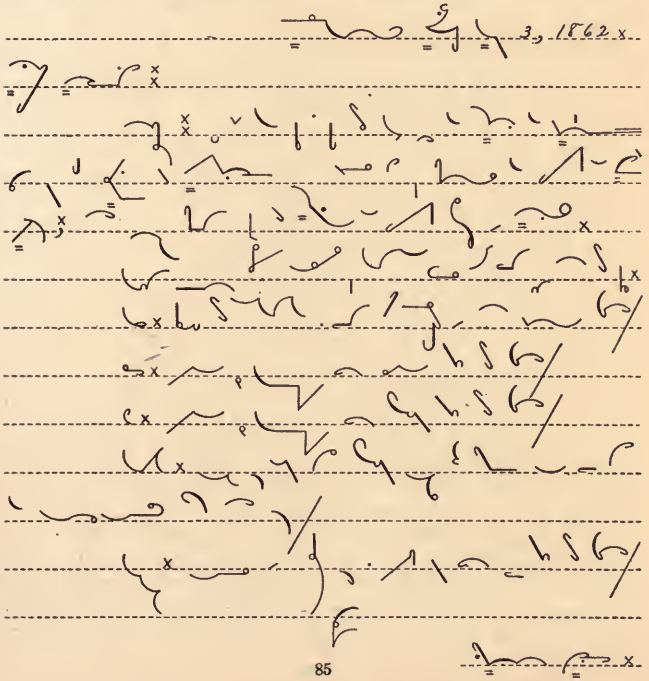




TO Mc CLELLAN

February 3, 1862

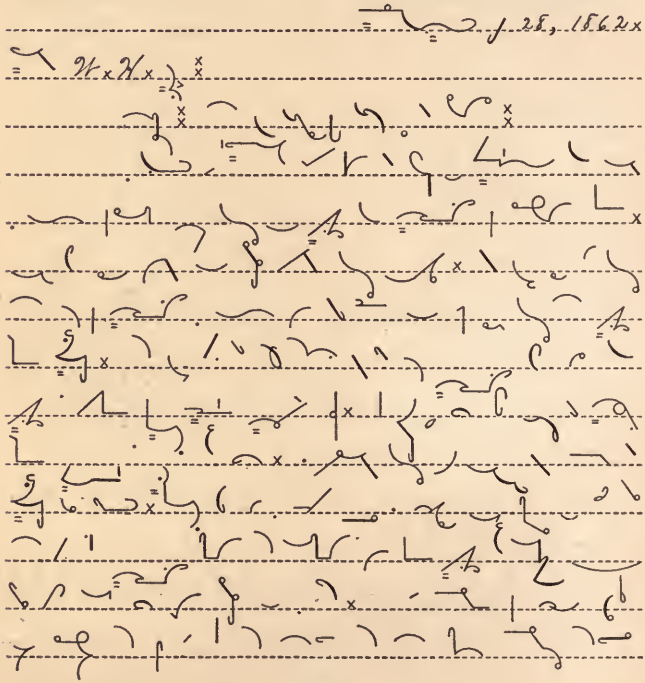
[General McClellan had succeeded General Scott on November 1, 1861, as Commander-in-Chief (under the President) of all the armies of the United States. On January 31, 1862, the President had issued his "Special War Order No. 1," directing a forward movement of the Army of the Potomac. This order conflicted with plans which McClellan had formed, and he remonstrated. Lincoln's reply is a good illustration of his power of compact statement, as well as his mastery of the military situation.]

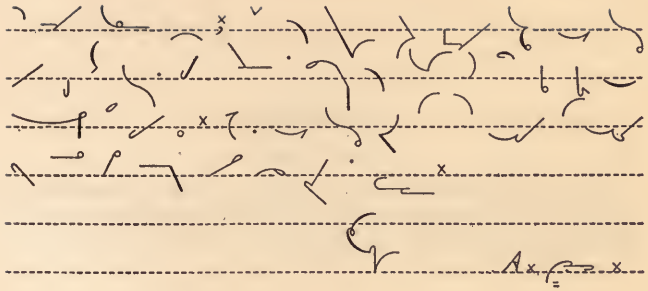


TO SEWARD

June 28, 1862

[This letter was written to W. H. Seward, the Secretary of State, shortly after the Union victories in Kentucky and Tennessee and upon the Mississippi River, in the spring of 1862.]

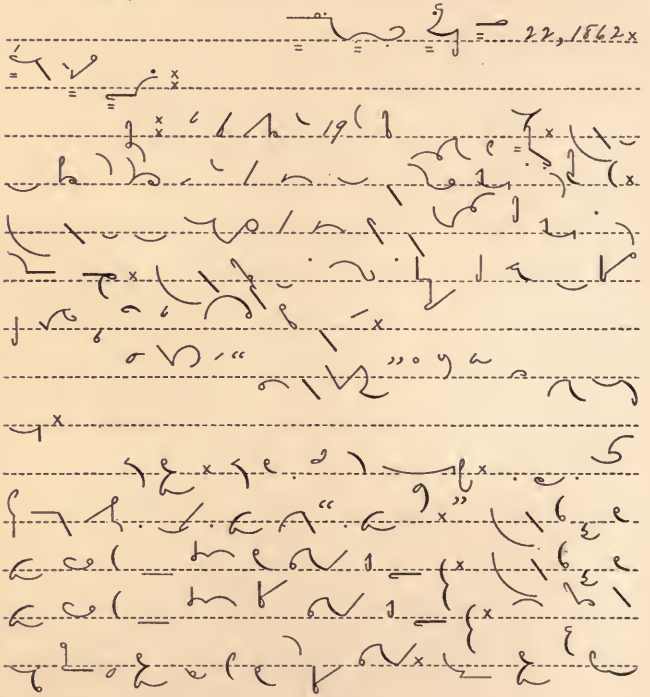


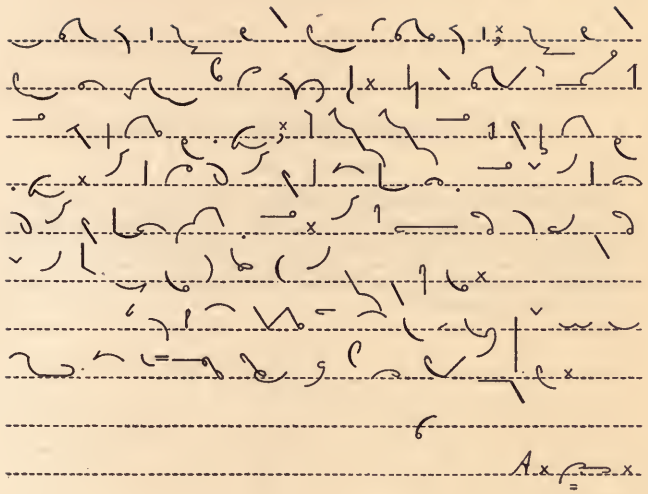


TO GREELEY

August 22, 1862

[Horace Greeley, the famous editor of the New York *Tribune*, though an ardent opponent of slavery, was a constant critic of Lincoln's policy, and indeed opposed his renomination for the Presidency. His erratic editorials concerning the Administration were a continual source of anxiety to Lincoln.]

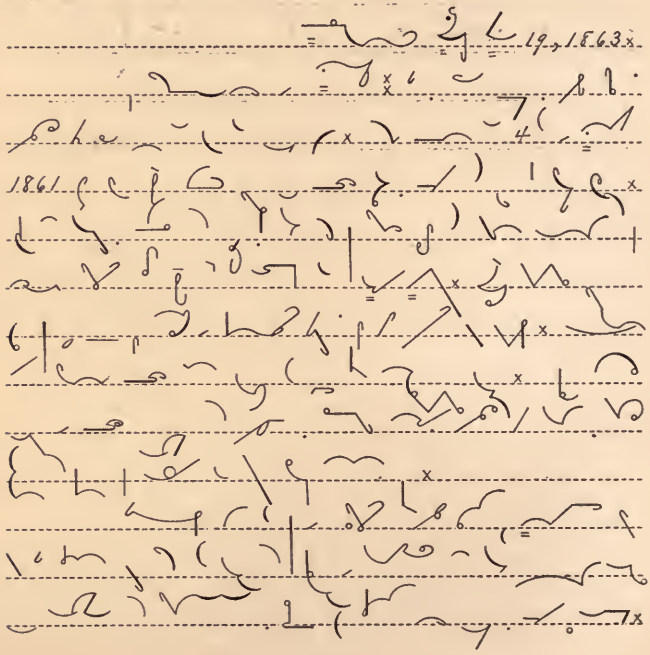


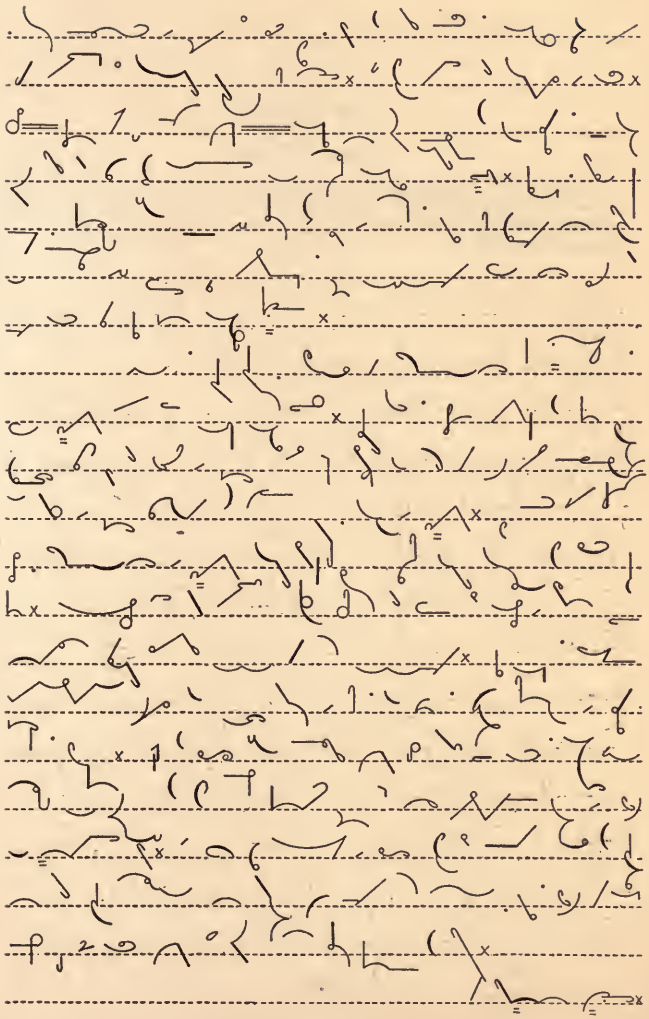


TO THE WORKINGMEN OF MANCHESTER

January 19, 1863

[The blockade of Confederate ports during the war was naturally a severe blow to the English manufacturing centres like Manchester, which had depended upon the Southern States for their supply of cotton. But the working classes of England, in marked contrast with the upper classes, displayed strong Union sympathies throughout the struggle. An address from the Manchester workingmen called forth this admirable reply from the President.]

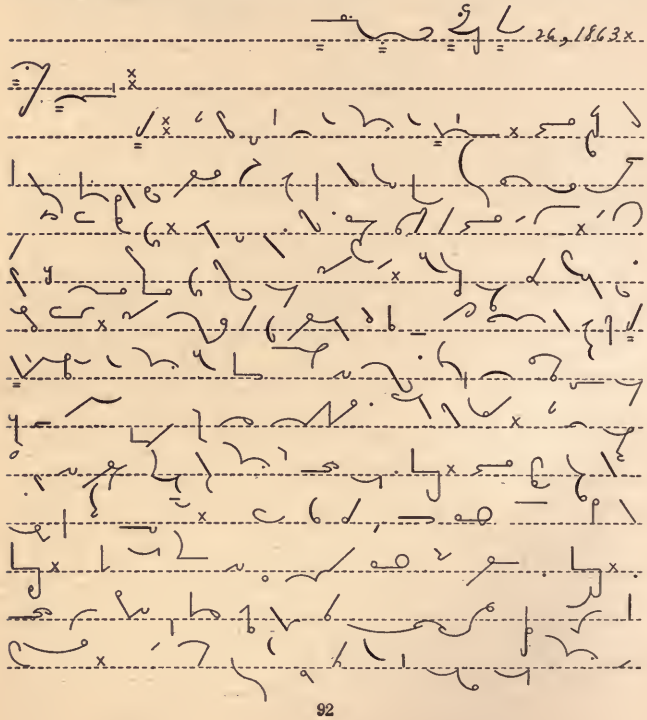


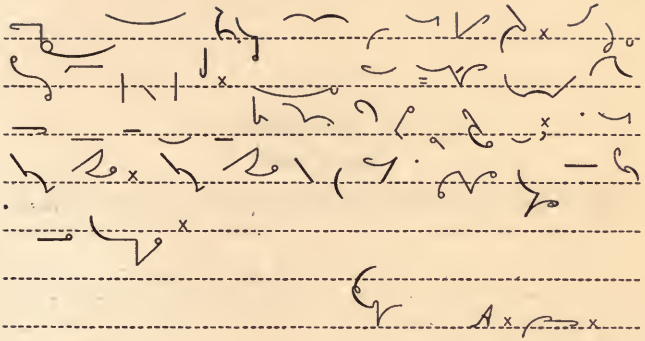


TO HOOKER

January 26, 1863

[This letter to General Joseph Hooker, appointing him the successor to General Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac, is one of Lincoln's most characteristic utterances—frank, kind, and gravely ironical. Notice the phrase, "I will risk the dictatorship."]

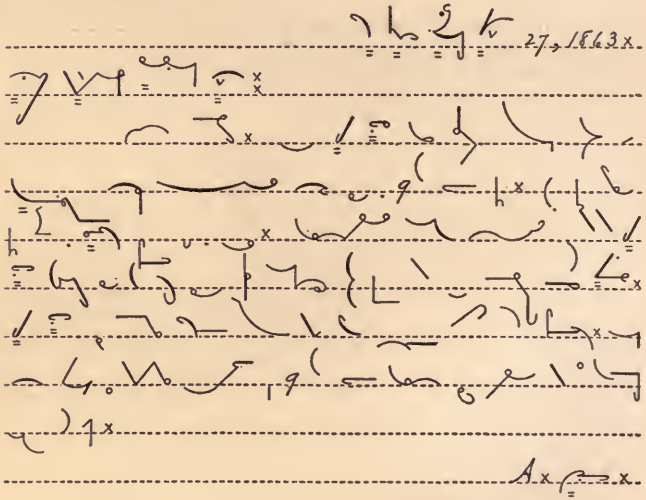




TO BURNSIDE

July 27, 1863

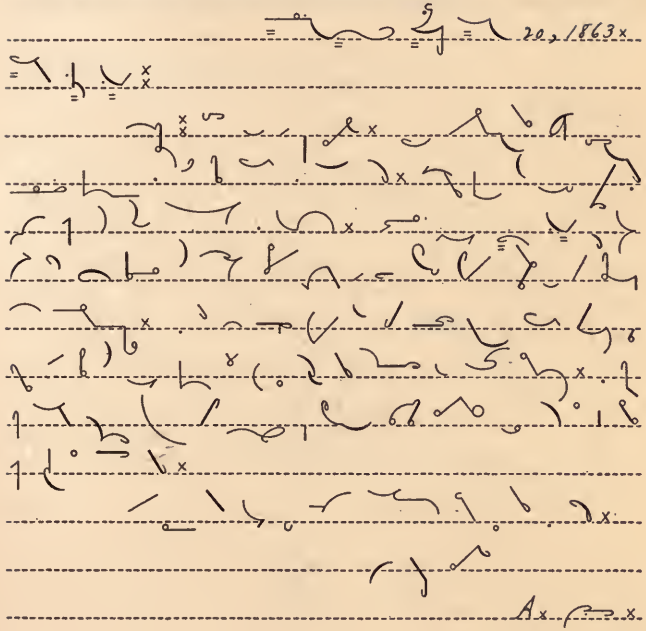
[This telegram is noticeable for its brief but comprehensive description of General Grant.]



TO EDWARD EVERETT

November 20, 1863

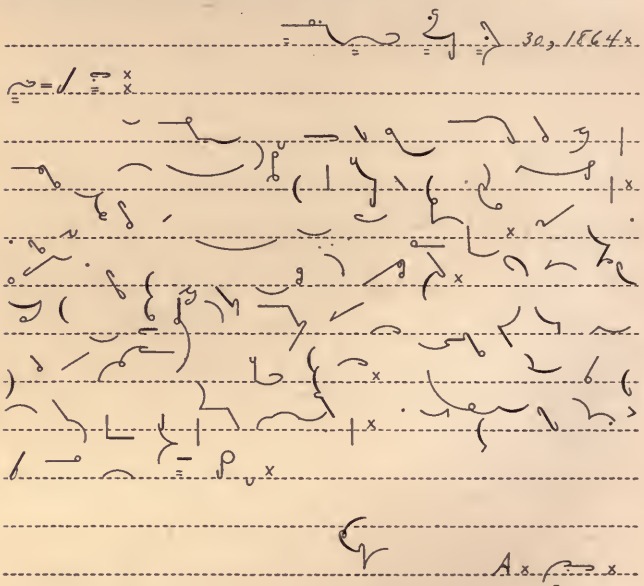
[See the note prefixed to Lincoln's Gettysburg address.]



TO GRANT

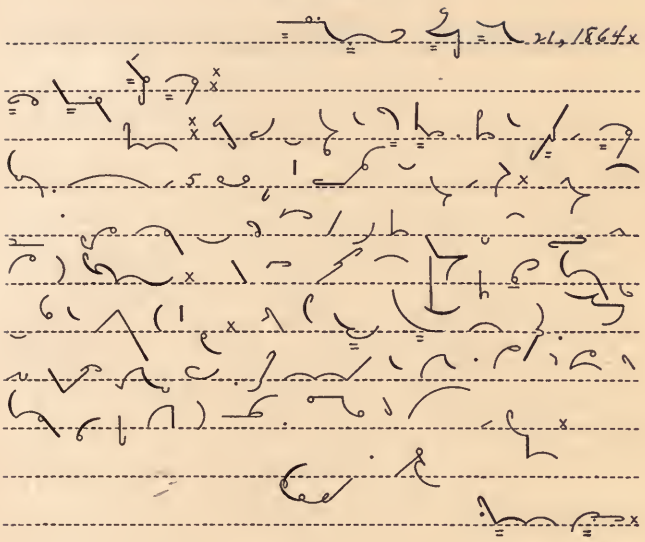
April 30, 1864

[The spring campaign of 1864 marked "the beginning of the end" of the Rebellion. This letter is one of many proofs of Lincoln's absolute confidence in Grant's generalship.]



TO MRS. BIXBY

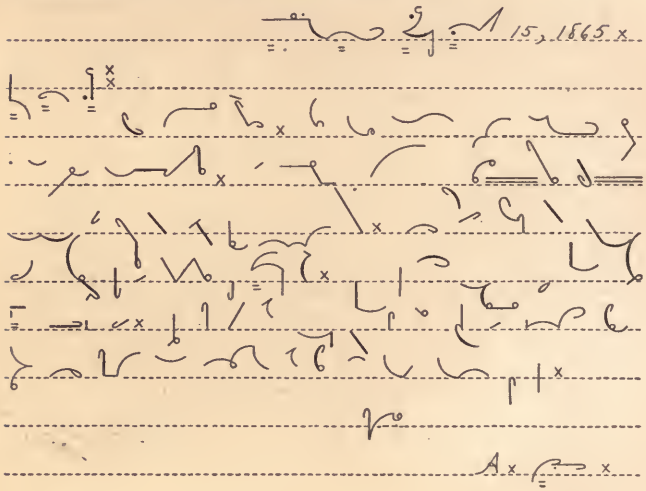
November 21, 1864



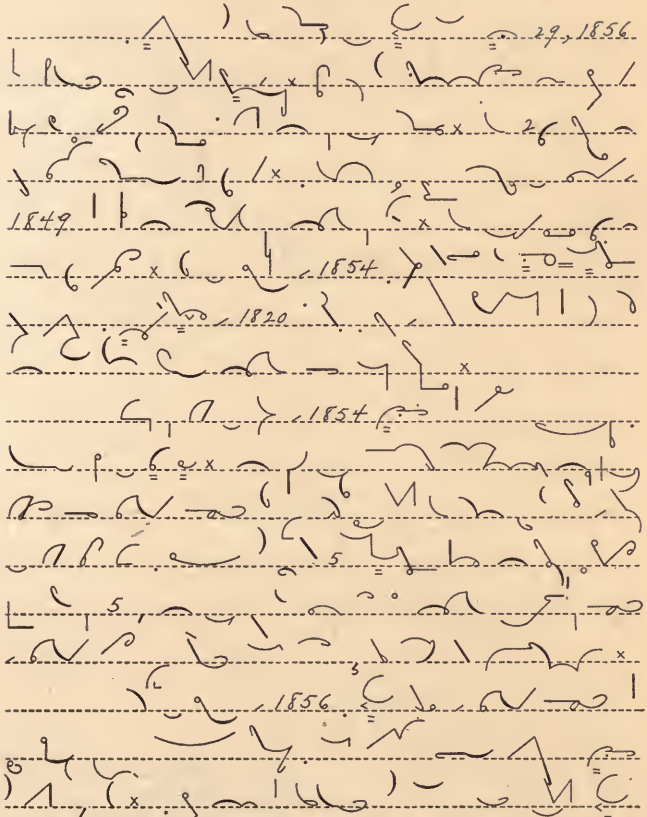
TO THURLOW WEED

March 15, 1865

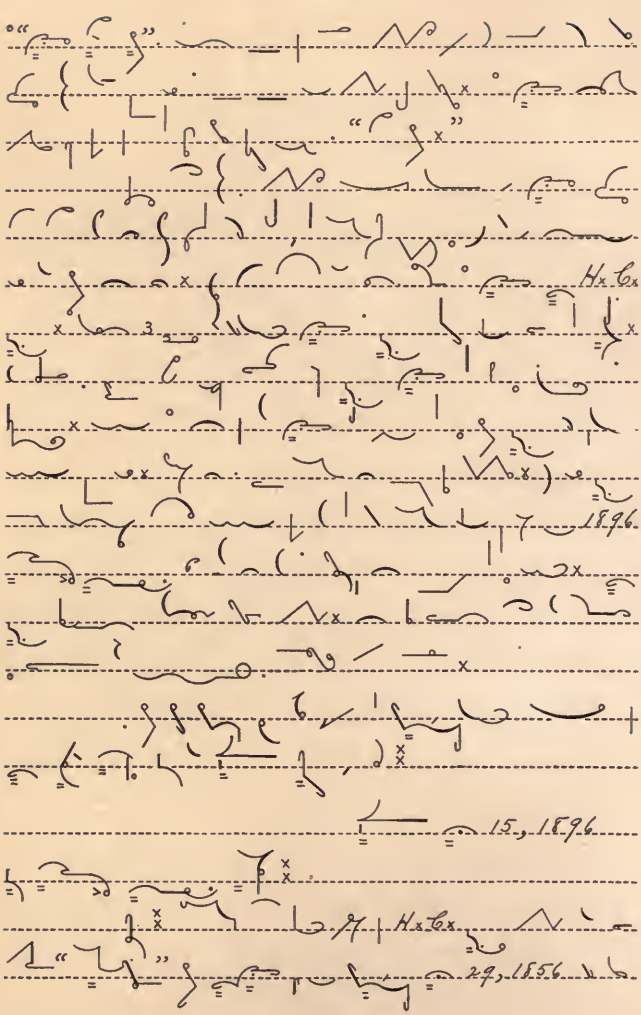
[This most interesting letter, written a month before Lincoln's assassination, should be read in connection with the second inaugural address.]

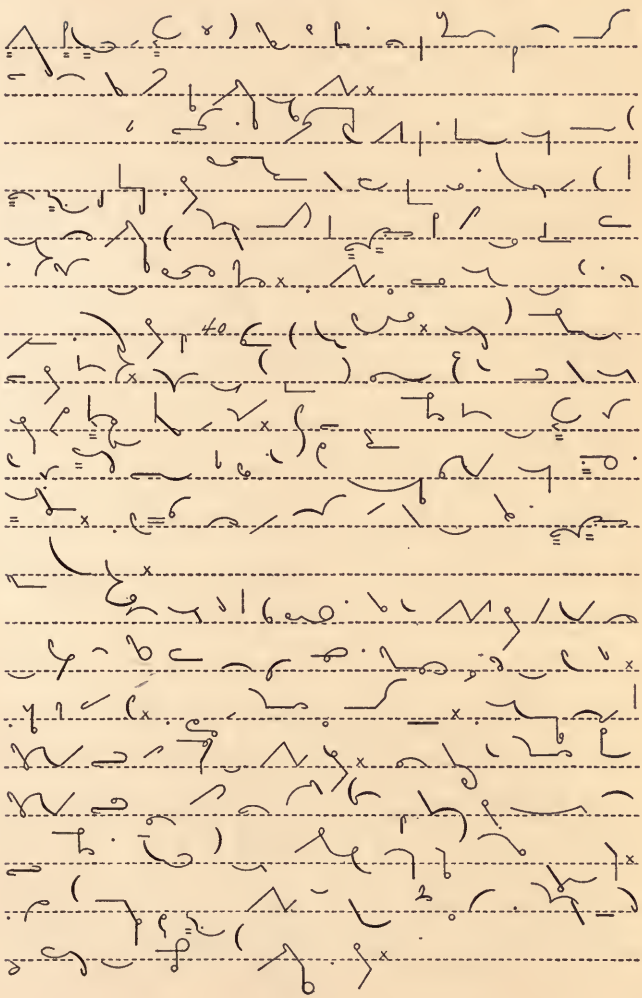


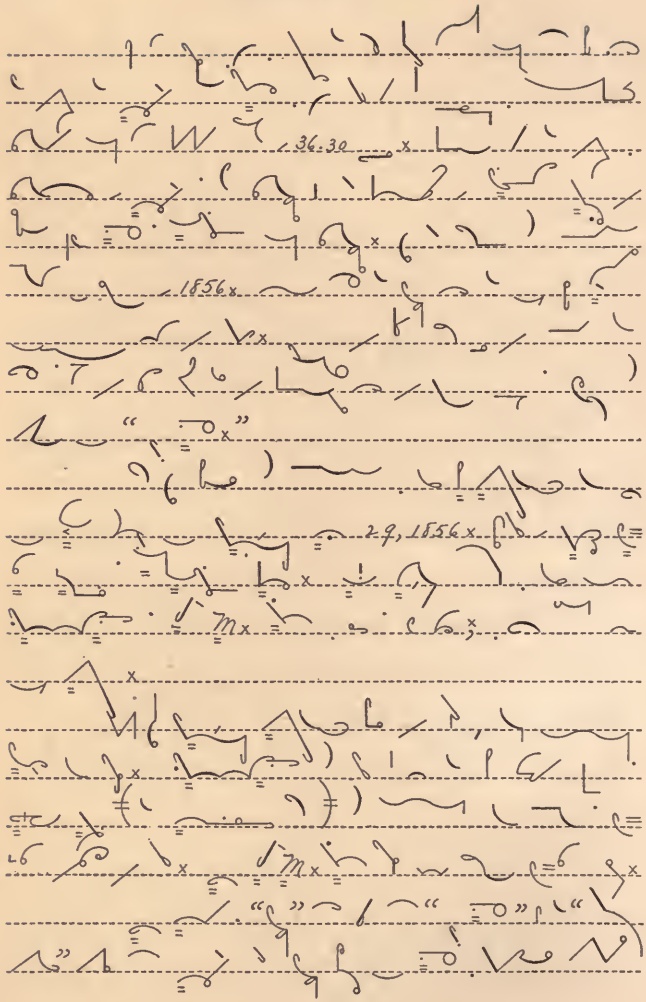
"LINCOLN'S LOST SPEECH"*

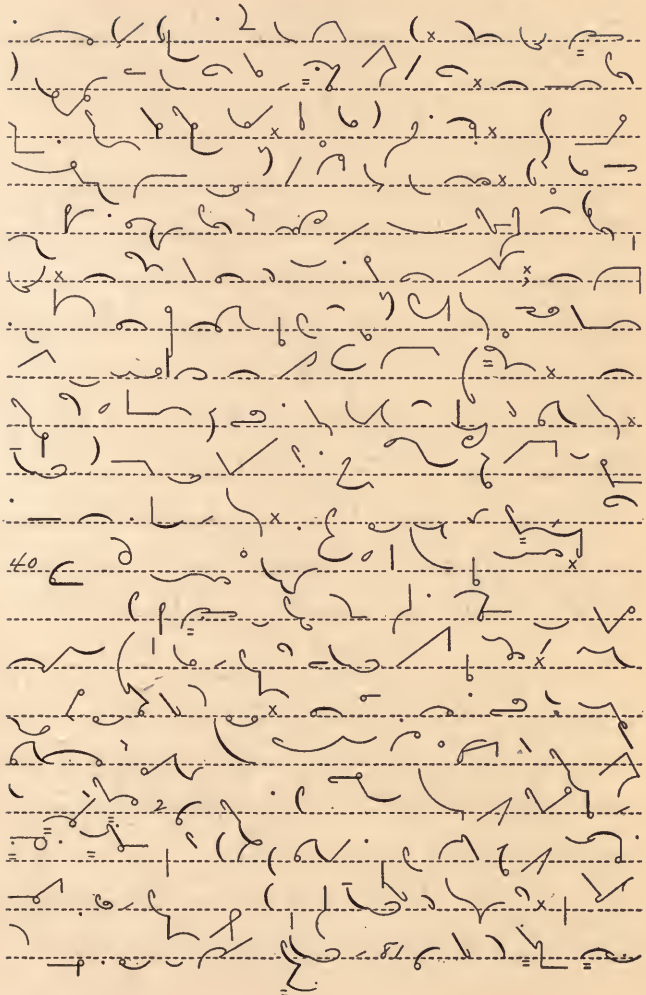


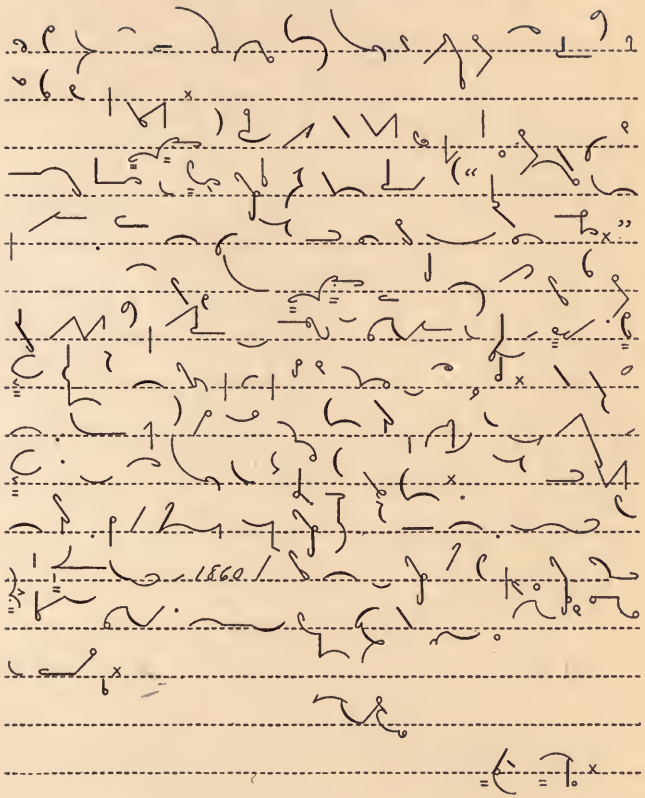
* Copyright, 1896, by Sarah A. Whitney.



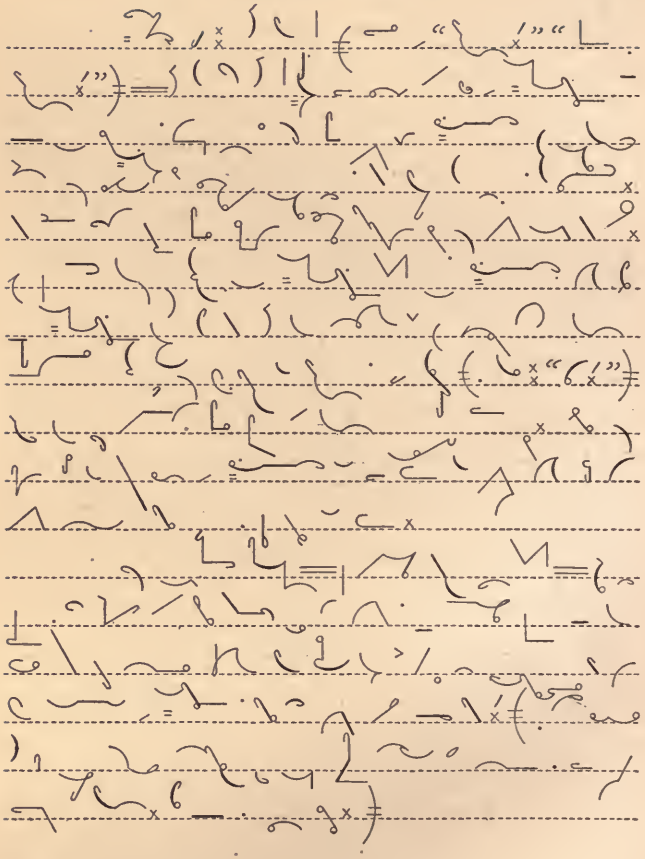


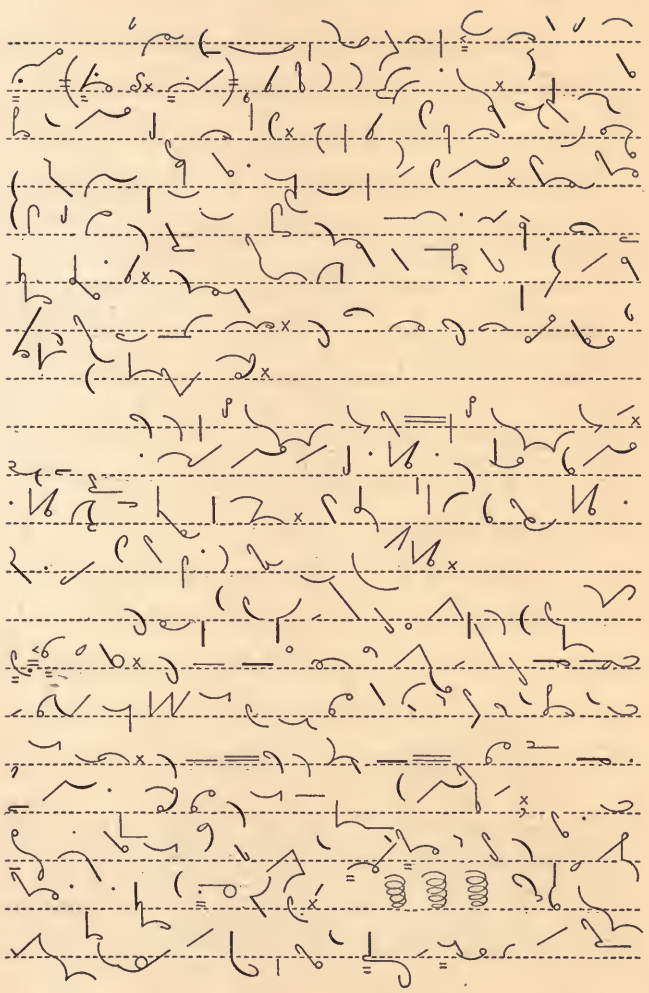


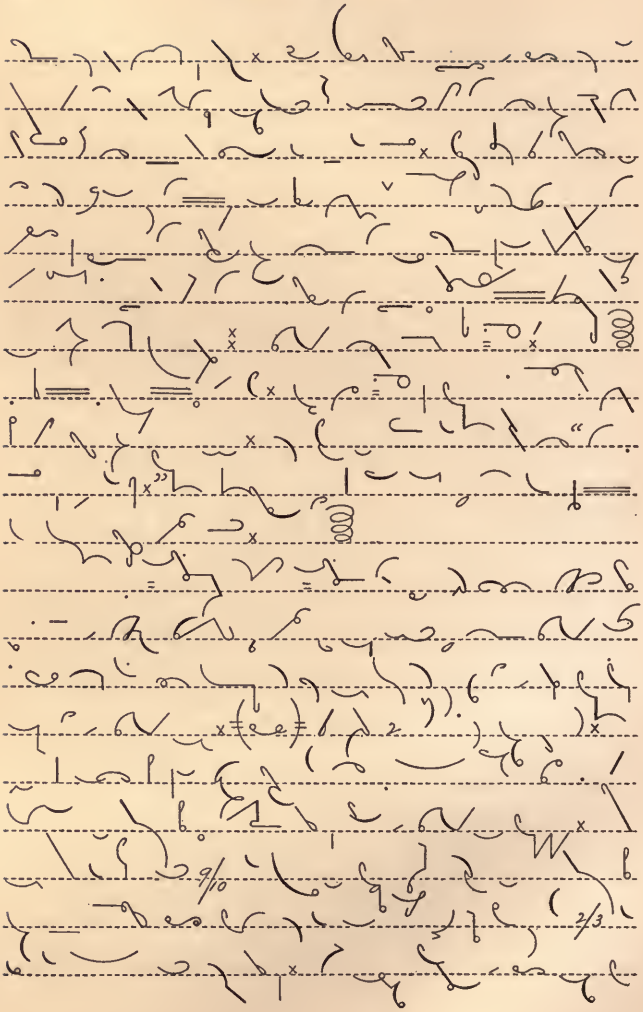


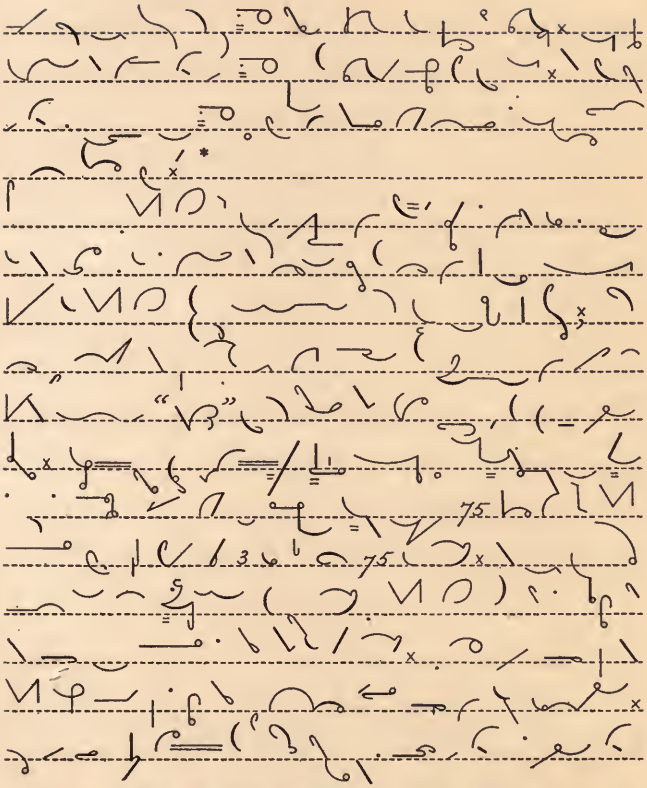


Mr. Lincoln's Speech



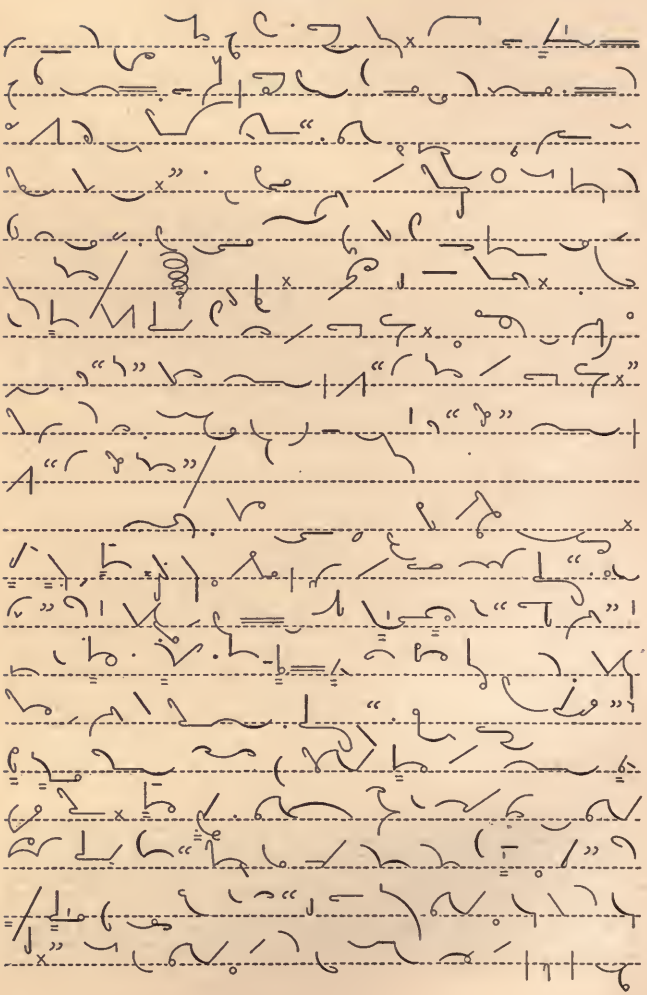


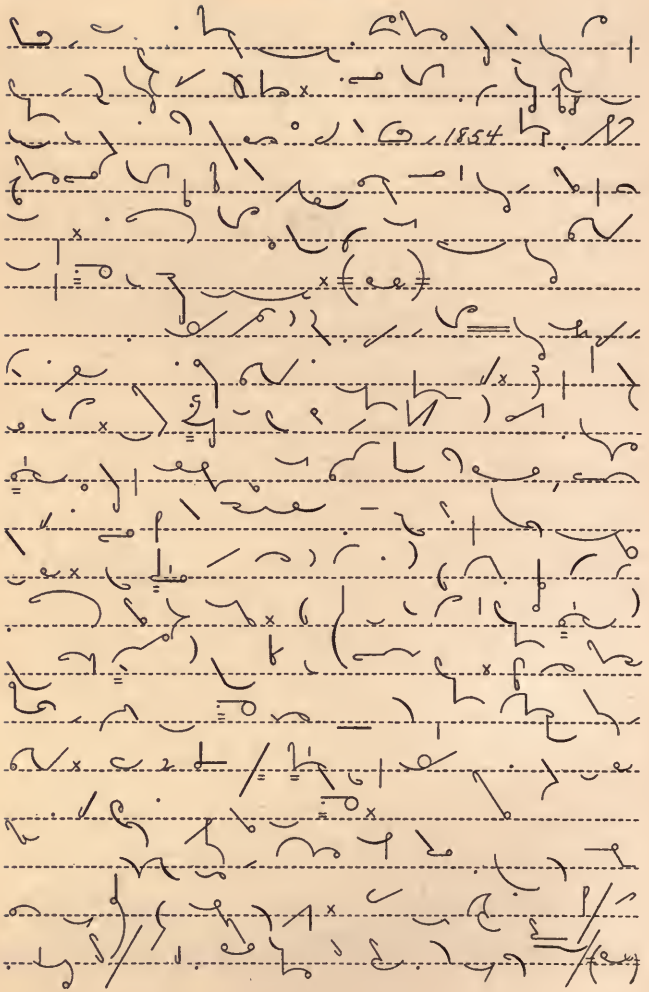


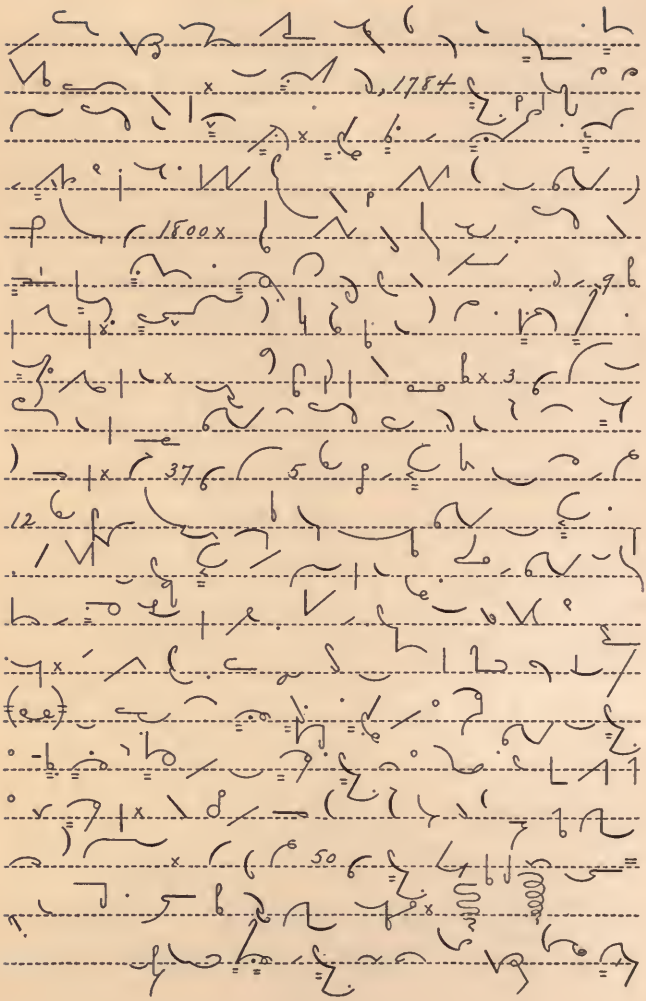


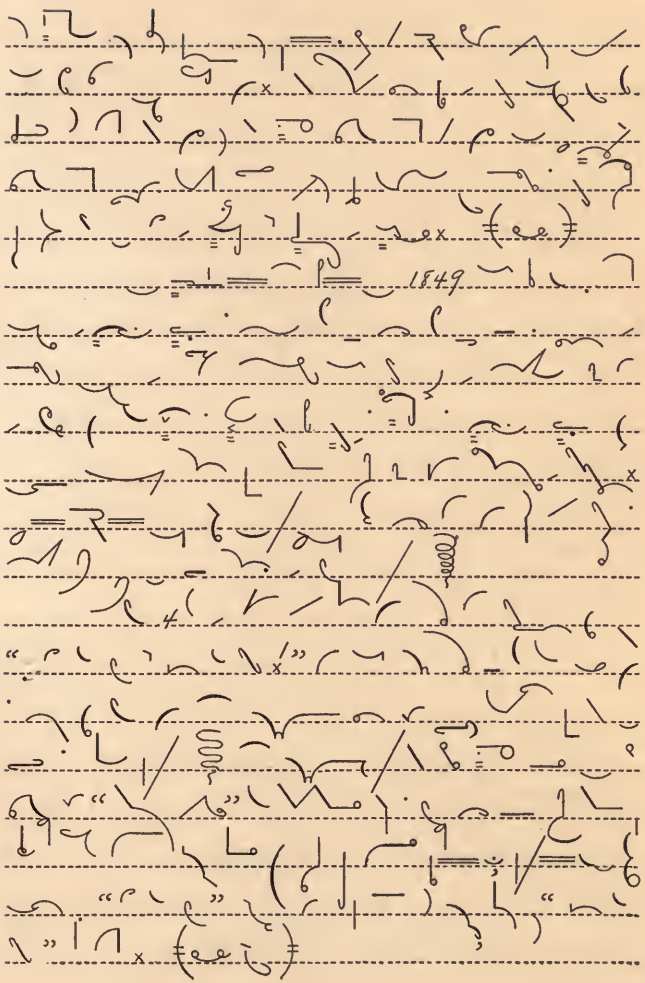
*Statutes of Kansas, 1855, Chapter 151, Section 12. If any free person, by speaking or by writing, assert or maintain that persons have not the right to hold slaves in this Territory, or shall introduce into this Territory, print, publish, write, circulate . . . . any book, paper, magazine, pamphlet, or circular containing any denial of the right of persons to hold slaves in this Territory, such person shall be deemed guilty of felony, and punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term of not less than two years.

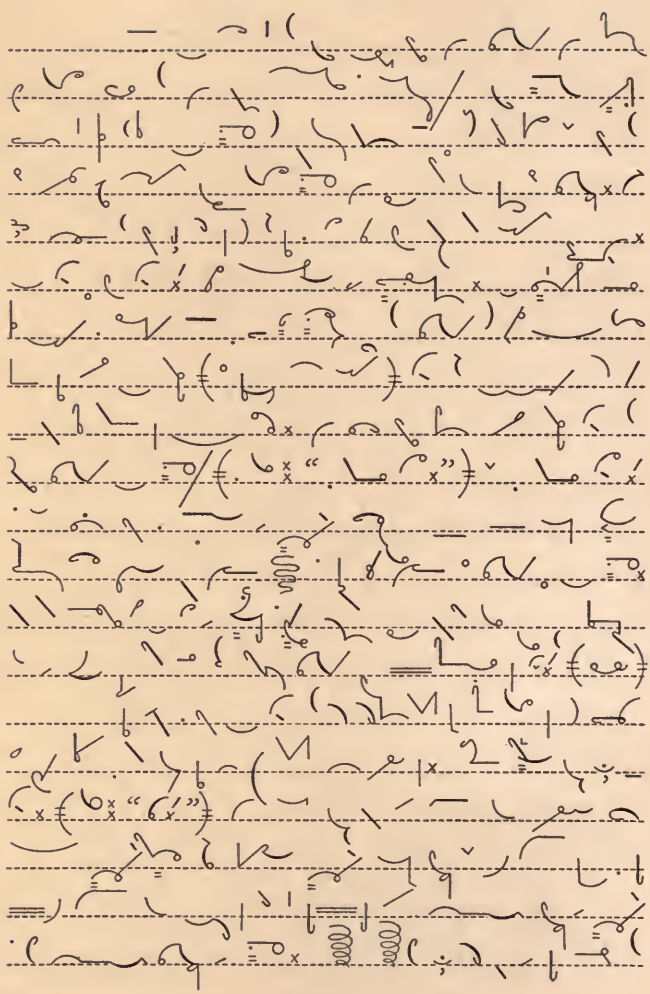
Sec. 13. No person who is conscientiously opposed to holding slaves, or who does not admit the right to hold slaves in this Territory, shall sit as a juror on the trial of any prosecution for any violation of any sections of this Act.

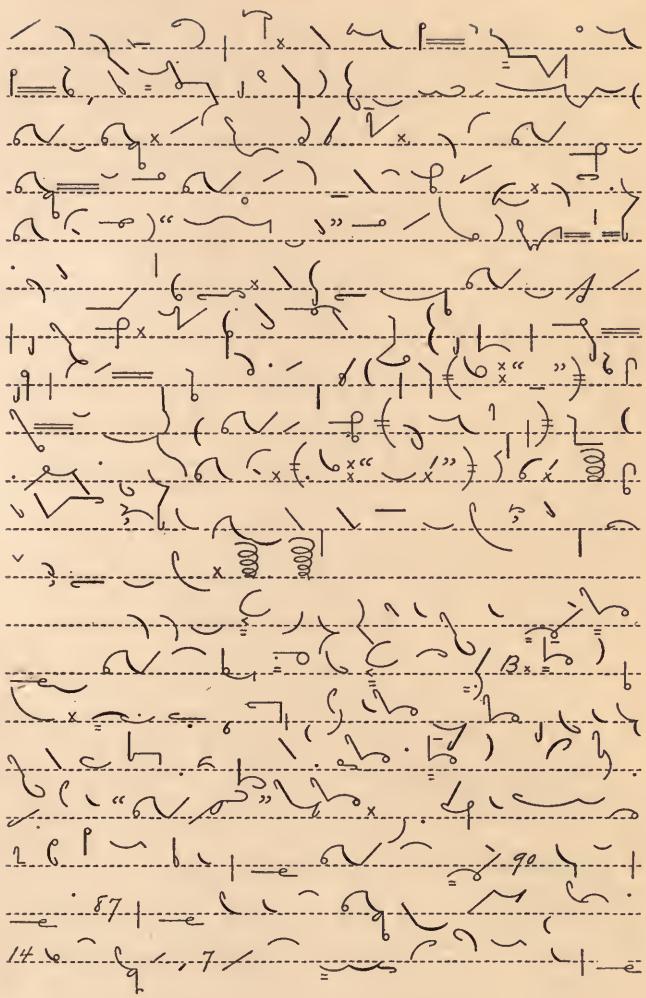


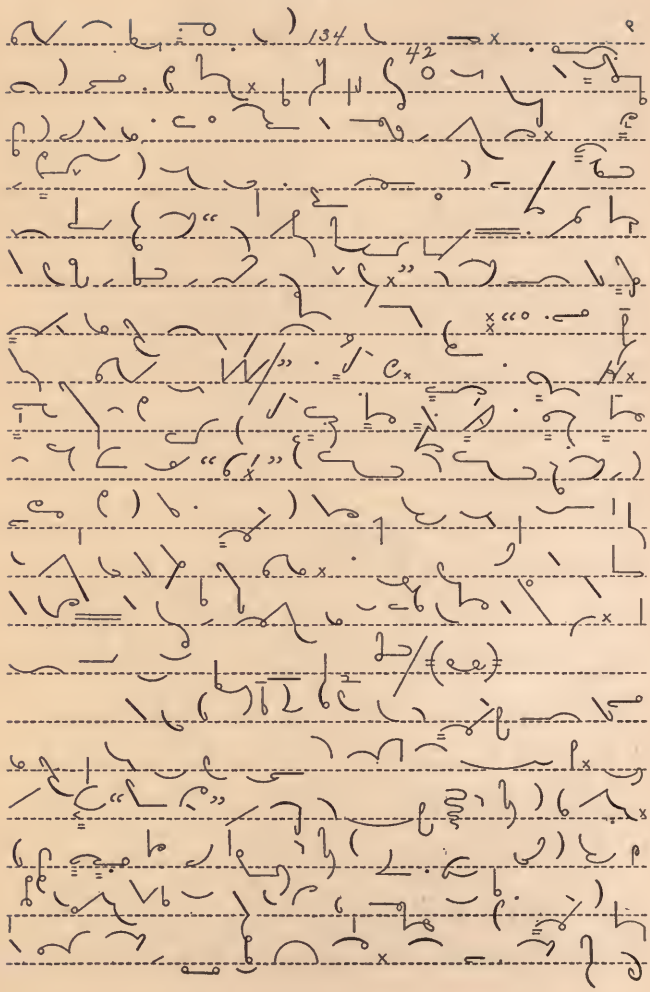


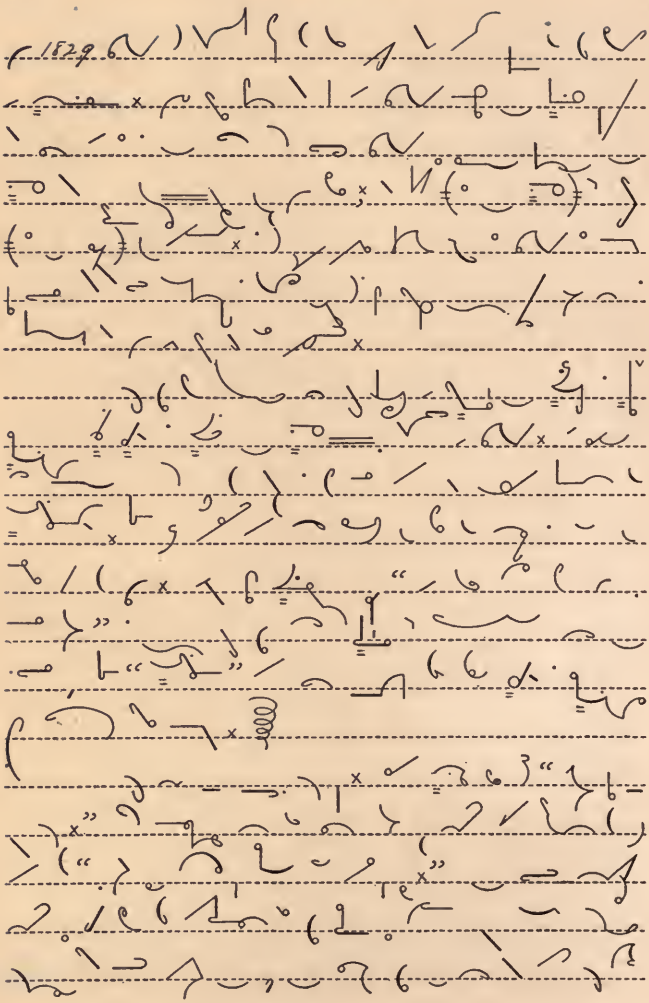


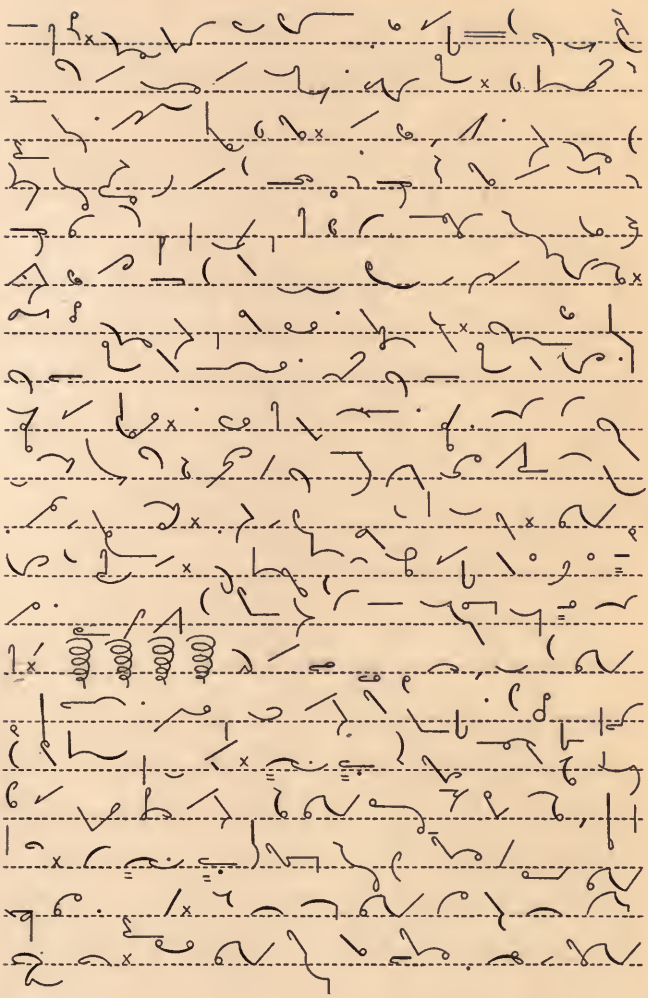


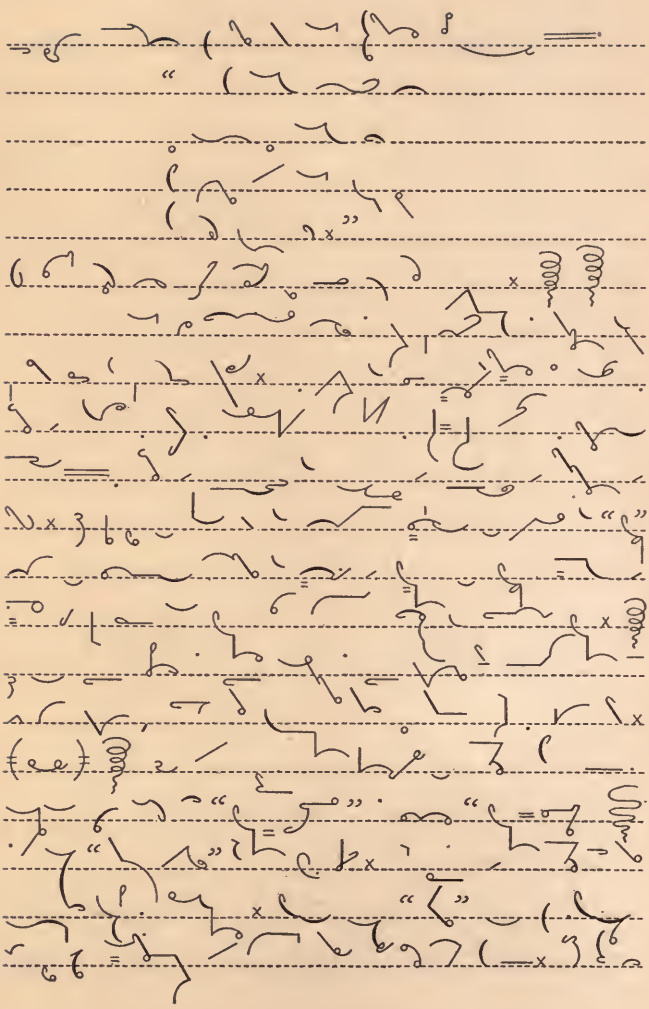


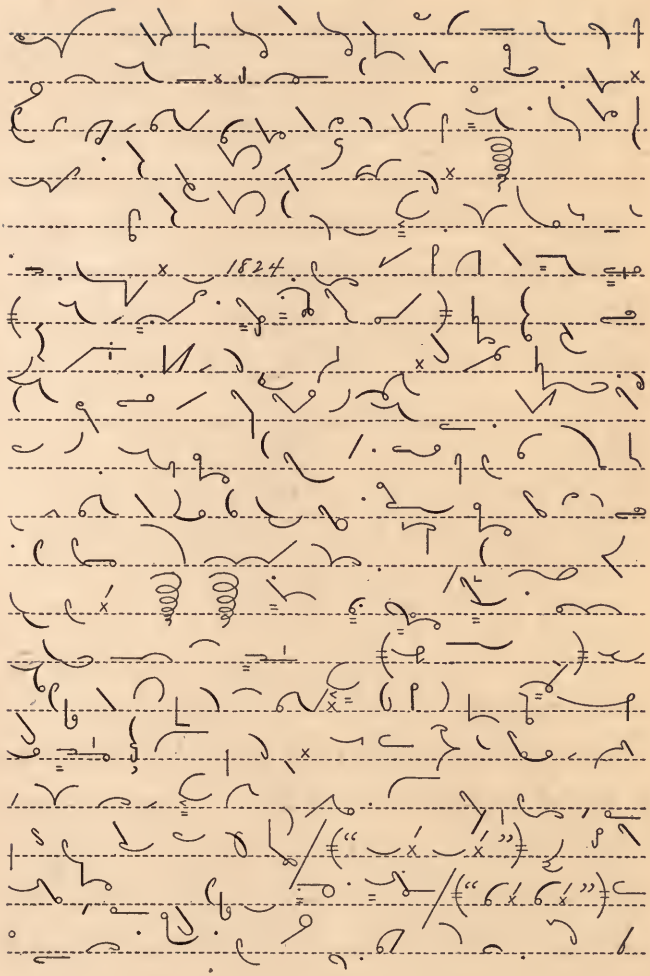


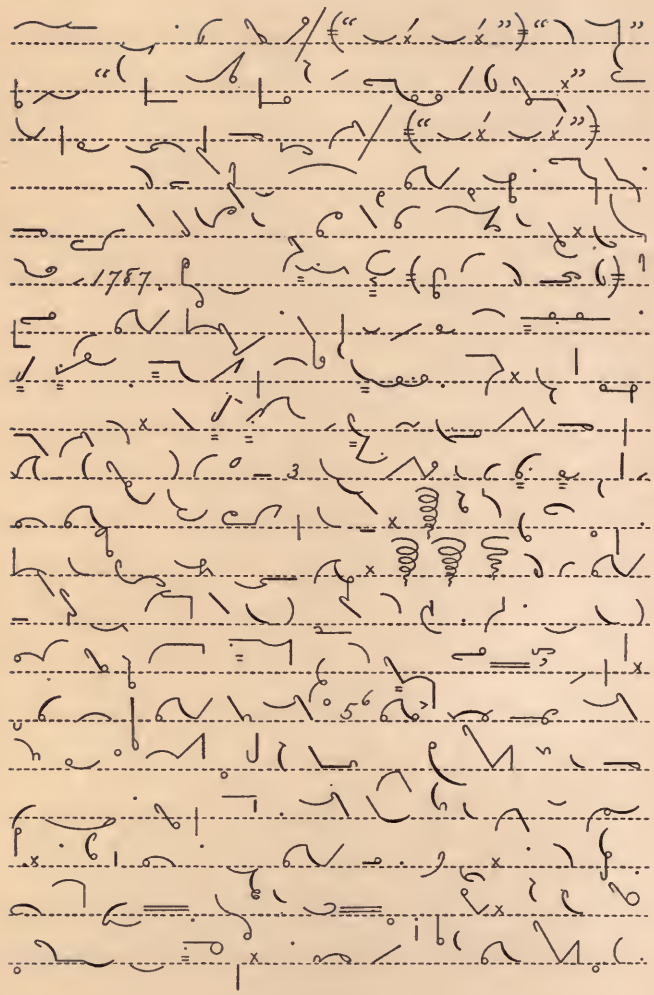


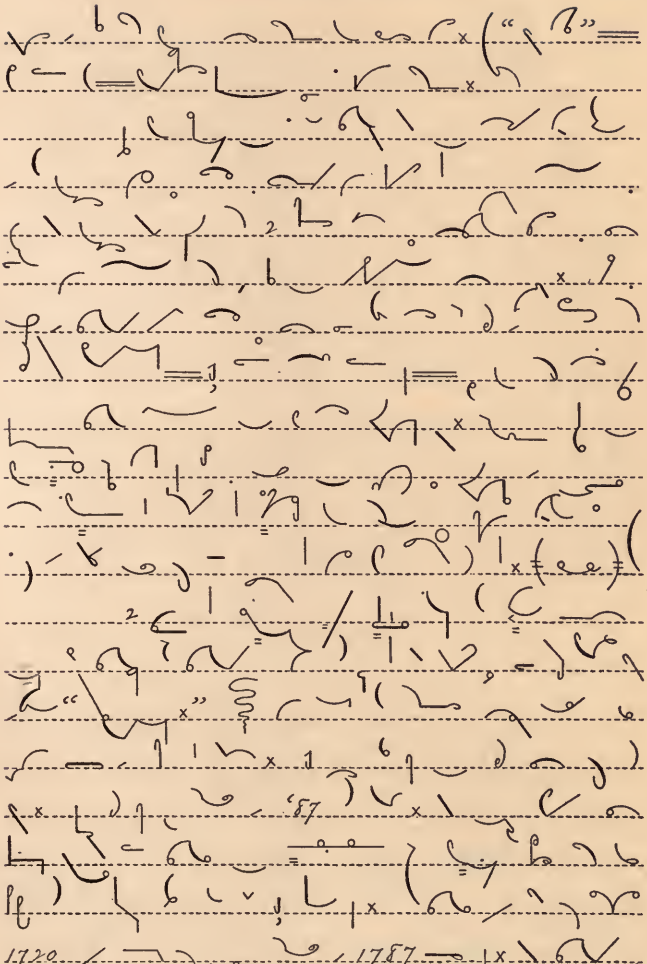


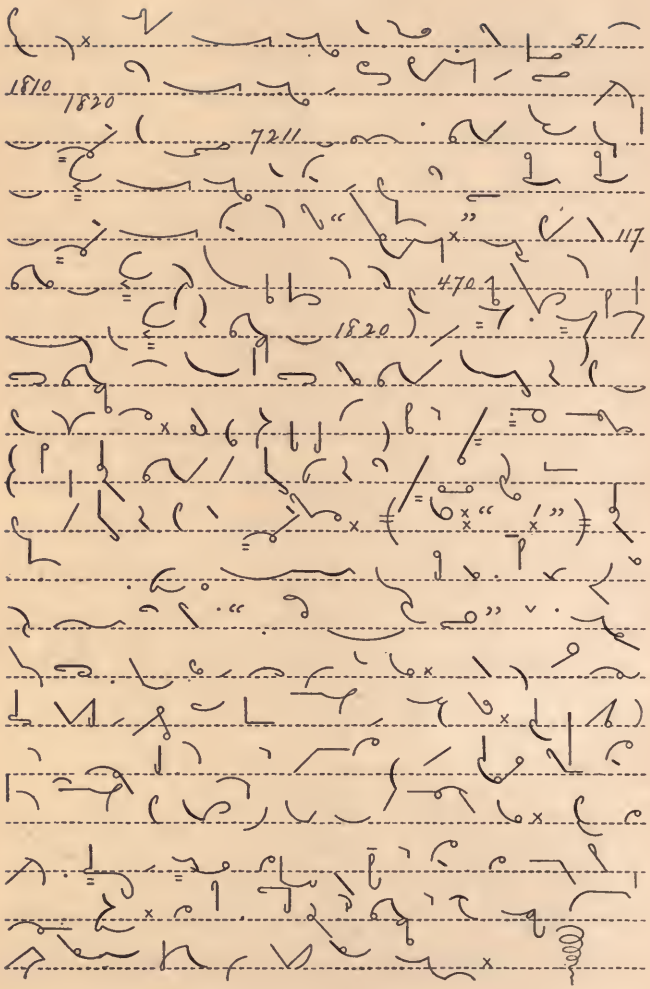


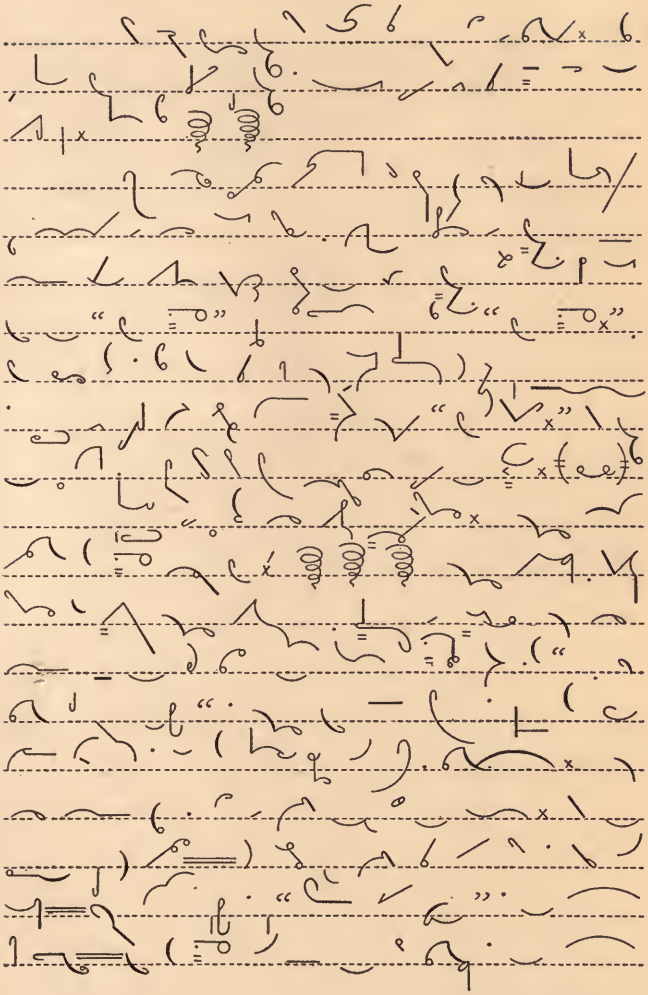


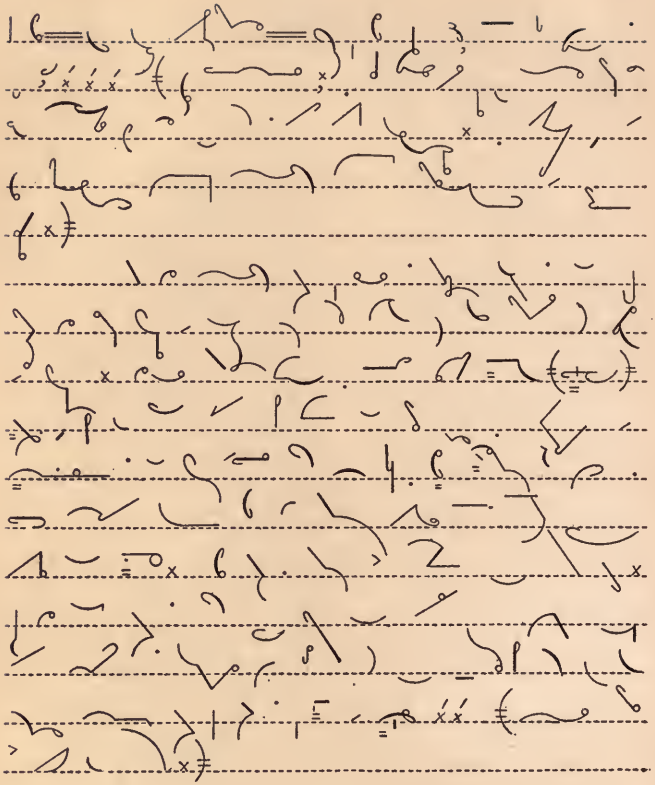












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